

Soviets offer Gulf mediation

NICOSIA (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, making an official visit to Iran, said Tuesday the Soviet Union was willing to mediate in deadlocked peace talks between Iran and Iraq, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, made in Moscow, quoted Shevardnadze as saying the Soviet Union was willing to conduct good relations with both Gulf war foes in an effort to further the talks. The talks started this day after a United Nations-mediated ceasefire lapsed the day after Aug. 28 but deadlocked immediately. Further rounds of negotiation followed over Tehran's demand that Iraq must withdraw all its troops from 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory and Baghdad's insistence that the Shatt Al Arab waterway should belong to Iraq. Iraq argues that sovereignty over the waterway should be shared. Referring to recently improved bilateral ties, Shevardnadze said: "Our two countries have opened a new chapter in relations." "We are prepared to expand ties in all fields with respect to the socio-political order which the Iranian nation has independently chosen," the radio quoted him as saying.

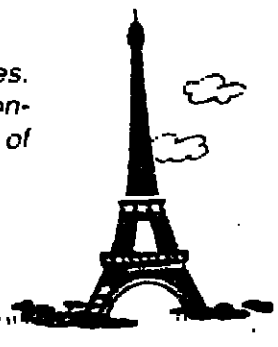
Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

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AMMAN Marriott

Volume 14 Number 4150

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1989, DHUL HIJJEH 30, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Arab panel drops effort in Lebanon

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Arab mediators have admitted defeat in a two-month drive to bring peace to Lebanon.

Joining a list of failures stretching back over 14 years, the foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia said Monday night that despite exhaustive contacts with Arab and international powers they were unable to end the civil war.

"The committee expresses its regret that its mission has reached a dead end in both the security and political fields," said a communique issued after two days of talks in Algiers and Rabat.

The carnage of Lebanon's civil war forms the background to the announcement from a pro-Iranian kidnappers Monday that they hanged American hostage William Higgins as punishment for Israel's abduction of a South Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim cleric.

Fierce shelling has shaken the Lebanese capital on four nights in the past week. More than 500 people have died in artillery battles since mid-March.

Following the Algiers announcement, Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun Tuesday declared a "popular liberation revolt" against Syrian troops in Lebanon.

"The era of the popular liberation revolt will not be far... it will be a sweeping river of resistance in every city, village, street and house," Aoun said in an order of the day.

The general's 20,000 predominantly Christian forces have been ocked in fierce shelling duels with Syrian-backed militiamen since March 8.

Militia and Aoun gunners battled overnight across Beirut with howitzers and rockets. Police said one person was killed and four were wounded before the duel

subsided into intermittent exchanges of mortar rounds and machine gun fire.

The casualties raised the overall toll to 51 killed and 2,162 wounded in the 20-week confrontation across the ravaged capital and the surrounding mountains.

Lebanon has had no president, two rival cabinets, a divided army and a paralysed parliament since former President Amin Gemayel stepped down last September.

An Arab summit last May gave leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria six months to solve the crisis but repeated ceasefire calls and hectic diplomatic shuffles did little to halt bloodshed in Lebanon.

A diplomat close to the talks said the longstanding rivalry between Syria and Iraq had been a major factor in the failure, with Syria insisting on controls to prevent Iraqi arms reaching forces led by Aoun.

But the communique also cited other obstacles including the Israeli occupation of part of southern Lebanon and Syria's refusal to accept a timetable for the withdrawal of its 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

Syria feels that the extension of Lebanese sovereignty (over all Lebanese territory) must not be decided in advance in accordance with a fixed timetable, but must be left until after the establishment of a government of national unity," the ministers said.

The committee had urged a temporary redeployment of Syrian troops in the Bekaa Valley. The committee said it had proposed that a special session of the Lebanese parliament on neutral ground outside Lebanon discuss a charter for a "democratic, free parliamentary regime offering equality of chances for all citizens."



Children in west Beirut fill a bag with sand to fortify their home against fierce shelling which erupts frequently across the Lebanese capital.

King, Iraqi leader exchange messages

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on current Arab issues, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The message was conveyed by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, who also received a message from the King to be carried to the Iraqi president, Petra said.

The audience as attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the minister of interior and senior Royal Court officials.

The King also received separate telephone calls from President Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The two leaders congratulated

the King on the occasion of the Islamic New Year.

The King made a telephone call to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to convey similar congratulations.

The Iraqi envoy, Ramadan, arrived here earlier Tuesday on a short visit to Jordan.

In a statement to Petra, Ramadan said that his visit to Jordan came within the framework of the firm relations between the two countries and continued exchange of views about the developments in the Arab scene.

On prospects for an Iraq-Iran peace talks, he said it "is necessary to arrive at a unified Arab position along side Iraq so that a comprehensive solution could be worked out in accordance with

U.N. Security Council Resolution 598."

Stressing that Iraq is not against establishing normal relations with Iran, Ramadan said: "It is necessary, in the first place, to end the no-war no-peace situation and attain durable peace because this means consolidation of security and stability in the Arab region as a whole."

Upon arrival Ramadan was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh, a number of ministers, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman.

Ramadan will open the two-week exhibition of Iraqi products Wednesday at the King Abdullah Gardens Complex.

King returns after summit with Fahd

Sharif Zaid, Qasem continue Jeddah talks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Tuesday at the conclusion of a brief working visit to Saudi Arabia during which he held

talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes as well as bilateral relations.

The two monarchs held two rounds of talks Tuesday, including a closed session.

The Jordanian side to the expanded talks includes Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thouqan Hindawi, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem, and the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by Second Deputy Prime Minister and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Hisham Nazer, Minister of Education Abdul Aziz Al Khawter, and the Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

At the request of King Fahd Prime Minister Sharif Zaid and Qasem were remained in Jeddah to hold further talks with Saudi officials.

At the end of the visit, King Hussein cabled King Fahd thanking him and the Saudi people for the hospitality accorded to him and the delegation and expressing "gratitude for the continued support for Jordan — which, along-



His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah Tuesday (Petra photo)

side its sisterly Saudi Arabia, form one country and one family."

The King also conveyed good wishes on the occasion of the new Islamic year and said: "I would like to reiterate my appreciation for your support for Jordan. May

God deliver you from every difficulty and preserve you."

Upon return, the King was received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members and senior civilian and military officials.

Meeting reviews Palestinian refugee affairs, aid to intifada

AMMAN (Petra) — Developments in the Palestinian problem, threats to the holy places in occupied Jerusalem and means of supporting the ongoing intifada are the central themes on the agenda of a seven-day meeting of Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees which opened in Amman Tuesday.

Jordan's representative at the meeting, Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, said that in light of Jordan's strong attachment to Palestine and its people and the historic and geographical and national considerations, Jordan would continue to extend all possible help to the Palestinian people and support their steadfastness and their just struggle for freedom.

Qatanani, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, told the meeting that Jordan's decision a year ago to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank was part of an ongoing process in supporting the Palestinian stand. At the same time, Jordan has never ceased to work for a just solution to the problem through implementation of U.N. resolutions and in cooperation with all concerned parties and the United

Nations secretary general through an international peace conference, Qatanani said.

The convening of the meeting, the 43rd of its kind, comes amid very sensitive circumstances in the whole Middle East area and while the intifada is entering its 20th month, Qatanani noted.

He said the past 20 months witnessed an escalation of Israel's atrocities represented in killing Palestinians, demolishing Arab homes, expulsion of Palestinian youths, imposition of curfews and mass arrests, coupled with economic measures that rendered the oppressed people in a very pitiable condition.

The meeting, Qatanani said, will address a host of topics related to the Palestinians and their conditions together with the subjects related to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides for the education of Palestinian refugee children.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Al Farra described Jordan's continued assistance to the Palestinian people as directed towards alleviating their sufferings and enhancing their steadfastness. Farra also

commended Jordan's decisions concerning the Palestine problem and said that they could only back the oppressed people's struggle for freedom and just peace.

The secret of the intifada's success, Farra said, is its continuation and, therefore, Arab and international support for the Palestinians is urgently required.

Farra noted that the Amman meeting would address a number of issues pertaining to the Palestinians and their present conditions, the deteriorating economic and social conditions in Arab areas under occupation and ways to continue the flow of all kinds of assistance to the oppressed people.

According to Farra, the meeting will review a report by the UNRWA commissioner general to the United Nations on the agency's operations in the Arab World.

Mohammad Jumaa, director of Palestinian affairs at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, addressed the session referring to Egypt's continued involvement in Palestinian affairs despite its absence from previous meetings.

Hizbollah rejects Israeli swap offer; fate of hostages unknown

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A pro-Iranian political party Tuesday rejected an Israeli swap offer for kidnapped Shi'ite cleric and two companions and said Israel and the United States were responsible for any retaliation against Western hostages taken by underground groups.

The deadline for word on the fate of American hostage Joseph Cicippio passed without any statement from the Revolutionary Justice Organisation that claims to hold him. He was one of two Western hostages threatened with death Tuesday.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation issued a statement Monday saying it would announce this hour of Cicippio's execution if Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid was not freed by 6 p.m. 1500 GMT.

The threat came hours after a videotape released a statement of a videotape saying it had killed American hostage Marine Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins in retaliation for Israel kidnapping Obeid, is cousin and a friend last Friday. The Tuesday statement by Hizbollah (Party of God), said: "The only acceptable thing to us is that Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid and his two liegues be released."

"The United States and Israel jointly bear the responsibility for the kidnapping crime and the continuation of their detention. They also bear responsibility for every reaction on the sons of Islam and the oppressed in Lebanon and the world."

Lebanese and Palestinian fighters cut on Monday night against a large Israeli military attack to avenge the hanging of Higgins.

Beside Cicippio, the other hostage under a death threat was Anglican nun Mary White, 50, a nun who disappeared Jan. 20, 1971. Cicippio, 58, was kidnapped Sept. 12, 1986 while he was acting as a professor at the American University of Beirut.

The first deadline set for White's execution at 3 p.m. (1200 GMT) issued with no death announced, but caller told a radio station it had been extended to midnight (2100 MT).

Jordan denounces reported execution of American hostage

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday denounced as "unjustified and regrettable" the reported execution of American hostage William Higgins by a Lebanese extremist group Monday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted an official spokesman as saying: "Jordan condemns the hanging of Higgins as a regrettable and unjustified act."

"Jordan condemns all acts of violence, kidnapping and killing regardless of their source or goals... and especially denounces acts of terrorism that Israel has been carrying out in South Lebanon as they constitute a flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty," the spokesman said.

"Such acts will certainly lead to further violence and mutual retaliation which will definitely complicate the situation."

Newsmen and photographers kept a tense vigil at local newspapers and at the offices of Western news agencies, waiting for a statement or a telephone call to reveal the hostages' fate.

Israel said it was engaged in contacts to obtain the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who made the disclosure, gave no details but told reporters: "There are permanent contacts with various factions about the release of the hostages."

The Israeli army said Obeid had confessed personal involvement in "planning and guiding and aiding" the abduction of Higgins and had revealed the names of his captors.

Israeli sources, however, said the decision to abduct Obeid had triggered deep divisions in the government. Shamir defended the abduction, saying it was made to help free Israeli and Western hostages in Lebanon.

Israel was hoping to swap Obeid

and other Lebanese it holds for foreign hostages in Lebanon, including three Israeli soldiers.

In Washington, U.S. President George Bush conferred with security advisers on a response to his first major foreign crisis since taking office in January.

On Monday, Bush called on all parties in the Middle East to release captives, seen as putting pressure on Israel to prevent the deaths of more Americans.

Nine Americans including Cicippio are among the foreigners believed held hostages — mainly by pro-Iranian hardliners said to be linked to Hizbollah — in Lebanon. Hizbollah itself has denied any connection with kidnappings.

Earlier, Cicippio's Lebanese wife Uham Ghandour had begged his captors to release him. "I plead with those holding my husband..." she sobbed at a Beirut news conference.

Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, con-

demned the reported execution of Higgins but said responsibility for his death rested in Israeli shoulders.

In a written statement, the PLO advisor said: "We regret the murder of innocents and their execution without trial and without charges and we express our sympathy with their families."

The statement continued: "We condemn the abduction of innocents and the taking of hostages and those who are the authors and we condemn even more the state of Israel which practice state terrorism."

In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) described Israel's seizure of Obeid as state terrorism and said it was aimed at drawing attention from the Palestinian uprising.

Another group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said it "holds the U.S.-backed Israeli government fully responsible for escalating tension in Lebanon by kidnapping Sheikh Obeid."

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday offered to swap Obeid for the Israeli soldiers and foreigners believed held by Hizbollah in Lebanon.

Rabin said about 150 Lebanese prisoners in Israel would be included in the deal.

Hizbollah denies involvement in the kidnapping of Westerners in Lebanon.

"Rabin, through his offer, wants to gain international public opinion by discrediting others when he links the (Israeli) prisoners to the Western hostages with whom we have nothing to do," Tuesday's Hizbollah statement said.

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters that while Egypt expressed deep sorrow and condemnation for the killing of Higgins "this does not lessen what Israel has done in acts of violence which Egypt has already said will lead to more acts of violence."

A leading member of the U.S. Senate, Robert Dole, accused Israel of endangering American lives by abducting Obeid in the raid into southern Lebanon.

World governments on Tuesday condemned the reported hanging of Higgins and criticised Israel for abducting Obeid.

Jordan to hold debt talks with Moscow

AMMAN (R) — Jordan will open talks with the Soviet Union next week on rescheduling its debts to Moscow, which are mainly military in origin, a Jordanian official said Tuesday.

"We hope to reschedule our debt to Moscow on the same principles and terms under which we rescheduled our foreign debt to the Paris Club of official creditors," he told Reuters.

The official would not reveal the size of the debt but said a figure of \$200 million reported in an Arabic-language magazine was too high.

Jordan first turned to the Soviet Union for arms in 1982, buying SAM-5 missiles and ZSU-23-4 anti-aircraft guns. It also signed an air defence contract with Moscow in 1985 after Washington refused a deal for Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

Minister of State for Economic Affairs Taber Al Masri will head a Jordanian delegation due in Moscow Aug. 8 for a bi-annual meeting on trade and economic cooperation. The rescheduling talks will take place during his visit.

Moneychangers to reopen

The government has agreed in principle to allow moneychangers to resume operations as public shareholding companies.

An official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters a draft law was being prepared to restructure the Kingdom's 70 or so exchange houses to ensure proper control of their operations.

"We will not have individual moneychangers, only public shareholding companies," he said. He gave no details and did not say when the new law might take effect.



Kabul coup plot reportedly foiled

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Fears of an attempted coup have led to a roundup of suspected conspirators within Afghanistan's Communist Party, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

Hints of a coup attempt surfaced about weeks ago, said one Western diplomatic source who insisted he not be identified. "There is no indication of how close to being launched the reported plot was when it was discovered," the diplomat told the AP. "Multiple sources have reported a sudden upsurge in tension within the PDPA (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan)."

A left-wing Pakistan newspaper, the Frontier Post, claimed Afghanistan Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai was under house arrest for his involvement in the foiled coup attempt. However, Western diplomats said the report could not be substantiated.

The Frontier Post quoted the pro-rebel Afghan Media Resource Centre. It claimed the coup attempt was hatched after Moscow reportedly suggested returning former Afghan President Babrak Karmal to power. He was Najibullah's predecessor.

Karmal belongs to the Parcham (Flag) faction of the Communist Party, while Najibullah is a member of the rival Khalq (Masses) faction. Animosity has characterized the relationship between the two factions since their creation decades ago.

Insurgents have been waging a war against Soviet-backed communists in Kabul for more than a decade.

Diplomats said Tuesday that fighting around the key eastern city of Jalalabad continued unabated. U.S.-supported rebels reportedly repulsed government troops trying to force them out of mountain hideouts overlooking key government positions, the same diplomatic sources said.

Jalalabad, 720 kilometres west of the Pakistan border, straddles the strategic highway connecting neighbouring Pakistan to the Afghan capital of Kabul. Kabul is 120 kilometres to its west.

Confused reports about the fate of the key garrison at Samarkhel, outside Jalalabad, have

been arriving in Pakistan, where the insurgents are based. Diplomats reported government troops have on several occasions driven into Samarkhel in tanks and armoured vehicles, only to be driven out again by rebels pounding them from nearby mountain positions.

Diplomats said resupply planes are landing at Jalalabad airport fortifying government troops. Rebel attempts to squeeze the capital of Kabul economically by keeping the roads closed have been erratic and for the most part unsuccessful, rebel and diplomatic sources said.

Rocket attacks
On Monday, rebel rockets hit a hospital, a crowded bus stop, an auto shop and several homes in Kabul, killing as many as 17 people, hospital officials said. Also Monday, U.S. and Soviet delegations began two days of talks in Stockholm, Sweden, on Afghanistan, as part of a series of superpower consultations on regional conflicts.

It was the first such meeting on the 10-year Afghan war since the last Soviet troops left the country Feb. 15.

Meanwhile, rebel reports said 59 people, most of them women and children, were killed in another round of fighting among rebel factions.

In Monday's attacks on the capital, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said nine people were killed and 22 injured in attacks at Avcenna Chest hospital, the hospital's auto shop and a nearby bus stop. But hospital officials put the total killed in three attacks at 17.

Crowds gathered later around a hastily dug grave at the side of a shop near the bus stop. On top of the grave was one torn black leather shoe and a chunk of metal from the rocket.

The thud of rockets could be heard in Kabul throughout the day, and Amani said others fell in the diplomatic quarter and on houses in the old city and western Kabul.

A bloody power struggle between the Jamiat-e-Islami rebel group and its rival Hezb-e-Islami

erupted a fortnight ago when reports of a massacre of 32 Jamiat fighters on July 9 reached the frontier city of Peshawar, Pakistan.

On Monday, Qaribur Rehman Saeed, a Hezb-e-Islami field commander as well as 55 women and children died when Jamiat forces founded the village of Qochi Quba with heavy artillery and long-range missiles.

The village is near the northern city of Kunduz, located about 70 kilometres south of Afghanistan's border with the Soviet Union.

The U.S.-Soviet meeting in Stockholm came as reports from Afghanistan indicated both superpowers had recently stepped up arms shipments — to the government of Najibullah and the Mujahideen guerrillas.

A U.S. spokesman confirmed that the delegations, headed by Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly and Soviet Ambassador-at-large Nikolai Kozlov, had met but said the parties had agreed to keep the talks confidential.

"These are working discussions, not negotiations. The aim is to understand each other's positions and identify possible points of movement," the spokesman said.

"From the U.S. perspective, we see this as an area where both of us honestly want to see a solution," he said.

When Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in February, many Western observers expected the Najibullah government to collapse within weeks. But the Mujahideen, hampered by internal divisions, have secured only six of the 31 provincial capitals and lost a long struggle to take Jalalabad.

The Soviet ambassador in Kabul said last month that the Soviet delegation would use the Stockholm meeting to propose an agreement with the United States obliging both superpowers to stop supplying arms for the war.

"It's a very effective means of stopping the fighting... if we and the Americans agree to stop now, the fighting will subside immediately," said Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov.

Arafat at 60 sees hope of retirement in Palestine

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TUNIS — At an age when most other men are about to stop working, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has set one tough condition for his own retirement from politics — the creation of a Palestinian state.

"It's only a stone's throw away," says Arafat, who turns 60 Friday, in a punning reference to the tactics of the Palestinian youngsters waging a rebellion for the past 19 months against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

And Arafat, whose chequered headress and stubby chin have become symbols of the Palestinian cause since he became chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1969, has pledged to finish the job before he thinks of quitting.

"I long for rest and my only hope is that it won't be long and

that we will get back our land, for I have spent my life in conflict and struggle," he said in a recent interview.

"When Palestine returns and I touch its earth, I will not take on the presidency. I will go back to being a civil engineer to practise the profession which runs in my blood," he told the Paris-based magazine Al Watan Al Arabi.

In the meantime he continues to live the life of the exiled revolutionary on the run, flitting from capital to capital in an executive jet borrowed from Iraq and, for fear of Israeli assassins, rarely sleeping in the same place two nights running.

But his willingness to compromise, especially his renunciation of terrorism and recognition of Israel's right to exist last December, has started to bring its own rewards.

Already honoured in many countries as president of the State of Palestine, Arafat is

courted by hundreds of visitors, many of whom wait weeks before receiving his summons.

Among the visitors are biographers seeking first-hand material. At least three new biographies are in the making.

In recognition of his fame, a team from the London waxworks museum Madame Tussaud's visited him in the early hours last week to measure him, clip one of his few locks of hair and match his roving eyeballs against their own artificial selection.

In three months' time, his lifelike likeness will stand there alongside those of the British royal family, conventional statesmen and celebrities from the worlds of art and sport.

It was a far cry from the early days of Arafat's career as an obscure nationalist agitator in the suburbs of Kuwait or later as guerrilla commander "Abu Amar" with a reputation for

planning hijackings, assassinations and attacks on Israeli targets.

Old age has treated Arafat well, despite the jet lag, the gruelling schedules, the constant meetings in smoke-filled rooms.

He has put on weight — his waist has spread to a portly 100 centimetres, according to Madame Tussaud's — but he remains fit, mentally alert and as astute as ever.

"Throughout my life I've never drunk tea, coffee or any type of alcohol and I don't smoke," he told Al Watan Al Arabi. Possibly as a result, the PLO chairman has never been reported in hospital, off sick or under any medical treatment.

For his loyal followers, especially Group 17, the closest team of commandos from which his bodyguards are drawn, Arafat was always the "Khaytar" (old man), anyway, and as he grows older, their

attachment to him deepens.

Born of Palestinian emigrant parents in Cairo in 1929, Arafat studied civil engineering at Fouda University.

He worked two years at a cement factory in the Nile Delta town of Mahalla before joining Kuwait's Ministry of Works, for which he built roads and buildings from 1957 to 1964.

He and a small group of Palestinians, many of them still active in the movement, founded Fatah in Kuwait around 1959 and from 1964 onwards Arafat devoted himself fulltime to the cause.

The PLO chairman says he has fallen in love but decided no woman could put up with the kind of life he would have to lead.

"Love for me was just a few passing moments... it's been a cruel and difficult life. I haven't had much free time and no time at all for pleasure."

Doubts cast on future of Cyprus unity talks

NICOSIA (R) — U.N.-sponsored negotiations on reunifying Cyprus face an uncertain future in the aftermath of a green line protest by Greek Cypriots which was violently dispersed by Turkish Cypriots two weeks ago.

"The talks are in doubt, this is the situation. A lot has been jeopardised," a Greek-Cypriot political source told Reuters.

Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, who called off a scheduled meeting with Cyprus President George Vassiliou, said the demonstration showed that Greek Cypriots were not ready for a partnership with Cyprus.

"Perhaps Denktaş wants to slow down the process of the talks. The demonstration has given him a few trump cards to play," said a Western political source.

The Greek-Cypriot source contended that Denktaş, whose government has accused the United Nations of favouring the Greek Cypriots, was using the protest as an excuse to prevaricate and prevent the talks progressing.

Vassiliou said after a meeting

of his national council Monday that the overwhelming majority of the people supported the talks and he thought it was unrealistic not to pursue them.

But two minority parties on the council, Diko and Edeke, have expressed strong disagreement with a detailed unity blueprint which the United Nations presented to the two sides last week.

Denktaş has said the assembly in breakdown north Cyprus will not convene until after Aug. 21 to evaluate the U.N. document.

Northern opposition leader Mustafa Akinci, mayor of the Turkish-Cypriot sector of Nicosia, accused him of following what he called a rejectionist policy without fully evaluating the latest U.N. views.

An official source, referring to Diko and Edeke, which fear Vassiliou will make too many "concessions," said: "It seems as though our rejectionists and the Turkish-Cypriot rejectionists agree on the same pattern."

Some Greek Cypriots said Diko and Edeke spearheaded the green line protest July 19, in a bid to sabotage the talks.

Rafsanjani thanks Iranians

NICOSIA (R) — Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani thanked Iranians Monday for electing him president and received glowing tributes from other Iranian leaders.

In a message read on Tehran Radio, Rafsanjani, 54, said Friday's elections "opened a new chapter in the thick book of our glorious Islamic revolution."

More than 15.5 million people voted for Rafsanjani, a pragmatic cleric-politician who campaigned on a platform of developing the economy and improving Iran's relations with the outside world.

A referendum held alongside the election approved a series of constitutional amendments increasing the president's power by an overwhelming majority.

Ahmad Khomeini, son of late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, said the unity of the Iranian leadership had disappointed enemies who predicted armed factional conflicts would break out after his father's death.

"The imam's (Khomeini's) great affection for his people and his great confidence in a man who has spent most of his life in fighting oppression and exploitation," said Ahmad in a cable to Rafsanjani.

He wished Rafsanjani success in consolidating the foreign policy principle of "neither East, nor West" and in supporting the oppressed.

"I am duty-bound to stand by you as before and serve you as much as I can," said Ahmad.

He wished Rafsanjani success in consolidating the foreign policy principle of "neither East, nor West" and in supporting the oppressed.

"I am duty-bound to stand by you as before and serve you as much as I can," said Ahmad, 42, who was once touted as a possible challenger to Rafsanjani.

A member of parliament, quoted in a Tehran daily, said there were indications that Ahmad would take up a call by deputies to take over Rafsanjani's vacated seat as speaker of Parliament, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, whose post is above the constitutional revisions, said Rafsanjani's election heralded bright days for Iran.

Ethiopia, Somalia discuss repatriation of refugees

GENEVA (R) — Ethiopian and Somali officials have begun talks on repatriating an estimated 840,000 Ethiopian refugees from Somalia to their homeland next year, United Nations officials said Tuesday.

Somali's commissioner for refugees, Abdi Mohammad Tarrah, and Ethiopian Deputy Interior Minister Ketsela Merisha began talks in Geneva Monday with Deputy U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Arthur Dewey. A UNHCR spokesman said.

They were discussing ways to register refugees who want to return to Ethiopia and how to arrange transport and frontier crossing points, the spokesman told a news conference.

The refugees, now in 42 camps,

fled to Somalia after fighting between Ethiopia and Somalia broke out in 1977. About 10,000 have returned home since 1986, but accurate estimates of the remainder are difficult because many are nomadic people. Cecil Kpenon, UNHCR regional director for Africa, said.

He said the estimate of 840,000 was a "planning figure" given by Somalia, but the actual number could be lower when the registration process got under way.

The talks do not cover 400,000 Somali refugees in two camps in Ethiopia.

Kpenon said the Geneva talks, expected to end Tuesday or Wednesday, sought to outline preparatory procedures so that repatriation could begin in 1990.

Pro-Palestinian song upsets Israeli army

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A popular Israeli singer of Egyptian descent, asked to entertain at an army general's going-away party, caused a minor upset at the party by singing a song about the 19-month Palestinian uprising.

The 20-year-old singer, Haya Samir, appeared on Israel Television Monday to defend herself after newspaper reports said her performance the night before was greeted with boos and shouts from an audience that included Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The song she sang included such lines as "Those oppressed on the road... prisoners of killing... hungry for justice... chewing their hatred... mother earth is bleeding, wounded by the war, cursed by force and hatred."

Samir, who served in army as a member of an entertainment troupe, was invited because she was a favourite of Major General Yitzhak Mordechai, who was being honoured with a party as he was transferred from head of the army's southern command to head of central command.

In the job he is leaving, Mordechai was responsible for putting down the uprising in the occupied Gaza Strip. His new responsibility will be the West Bank, also torn by the revolt.

The mass-circulation daily Maariv quoted one top officer as remarking after the show: "I am shocked that Yitzhak Mordechai loved her singing and we wanted to give him a nice time. She used us."

According to the paper, Samir said after the party: "I did not

intend to sing a political song. This is a song about life."

Speaking on Israel Television Monday, Samir said that the idea to sing the controversial song, which she wrote herself, came to her as she mounted the stage.

Samir was born to Egyptian Muslim parents who immigrated to Israel. Israeli newspapers said she was the only Arab woman to ever serve in the army, though some Arab men regularly serve in the Israeli military.

Samir's song, in Hebrew, included these words: "Captives of killing are drawn to it bloodily."

"Hungry for justice and chewing hatred," "While calmness cries out 'To all the sons of the earth.'"

And these: "Mother earth is bleeding. 'She has been wounded by war.'"

SLA kills 3 Palestinians

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli-backed militiamen killed three Palestinians in South Lebanon Tuesday three kilometres from Israel's border, security sources said.

They said militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) killed the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) fighters in the town of Hula inside Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Both sides used hand grenades and machine-guns in the clash, the sources said.

The PLF is split into two fac-

U.S. facing major dilemma in Lebanon

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States is a shackled giant when it comes to military retaliation for the reported hanging of kidnapped Colonel William Higgins, according to defence and political analysts.

They said there were few obviously effective means of swift superpower vengeance against the shadowy underground groups operating in the Middle East quagmire.

"There is no address there where you can drop bombs. This is not an army you're fighting. What you have is a dirty political situation," said Judith Kipper of the private Washington-based Brookings Institution.

"The United States doesn't have many more information for effective military action right now than it did five days ago or a year ago," said Fred Axelgard at the Centre of Strategic and International Studies, another independent think tank.

President George Bush Monday condemned the reported

killing by pro-Iranian kidnappers and cut short a trip to the White House and consider a response.

Bush, facing a major crisis with his presidency only six months old, said he was to convene his national security advisers to "establish to the best of our ability if this report is true and what might conceivably be done."

Perhaps reflecting the magnitude of the problem, Bush bristled when asked by reporters what action he might take, saying "this is a matter of grave concern to the American people and discussing in some half-way manner what might or might not be done is not the way to conduct a foreign policy or the national security policy of this country."

Analysts said the president must keep in mind America's continuing vulnerability to a cycle of revenge and counter-revenge.

Eight other Americans are still held hostage in Lebanon, completely exposed to punishment for any U.S. action.

"The president is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't at this moment. But

you can't order action out of frustration," said Barry Blechman, a military expert with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

The United States has 21 warships, including the aircraft carrier Coral Sea and battleship Iowa, in the Mediterranean.

U.S. conventional firepower was deployed against Libya in 1986 after U.S. officials claimed they had established a clear link between that country and the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque frequented by American soldiers.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bombing raids against Tripoli and Benghazi raised international criticism, but have been widely credited at least by American authorities with a significant reduction in Libyan-linked incidents of international terrorism.

But when the battleship New Jersey hurled its massive shells against Lebanon in 1983 in retaliation for a truck bomb attack that killed 241 American soldiers, results were seen as

little more useful than an expression of anger.

One defence official Monday expressed frustration at having such power available against what the Pentagon sees as fleeing "terrorist" targets.

"Clearly it is difficult to react to these kinds of things. It is hard when you're dealing with barbarians," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Analysts said the election of moderate Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as president of Iran had shed some light at the end of the long, dark tunnels of U.S.-Iranian relations.

But they said such hopes could be dashed by developments in Lebanon.

They said Bush would be well advised to move carefully, perhaps asking Israel and Syria to try to find out exactly who might be responsible for Higgins' death.

"You have to be very careful here about directly blaming Iran for this. And you have to question whether Higgins was killed today, if indeed he is dead," said Kipper.

She recalled that some experts on the region said earlier that Higgins might have been

killed shortly after he was kidnapped in February of last year, or in July after the downing of an Iranian airliner by a U.S. navy guided-missile cruiser.

A statement from the "Organisation of the Oppressed of the Earth" was accompanied by a videotape that the group said showed Higgins bound, gagged and hanged.

It said the group hanged the officer to punish the United States and Israel for the abduction of Shiite leader Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, seized in Lebanon by Israeli commandos.

Bush over the weekend chided Israel, saying that he move did nothing to increase stability in the region.

"If the president thinks that Israel was wrong, then how can he call for retaliation?" Kipper demanded.

"The Bush administration seems to want to adopt a different approach to Iran than blustering and sabre-rattling used by (former President Ronald) Reagan," said Axelgard.

"This will take a lot of patience. But we must move very, very carefully here."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
17:00	Alph
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo News Message
18:25	Local programme
19:20	Programme review
19:40	News in Arabic
20:00	Arabic series
21:40	Local programme
22:25	Wrestling
23:10	Varities programme
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Loft story
18:30	Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le Monde Programme
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	"You can't take it with you"
21:10	Posidon Files
22:00	News in English
22:20	Jack the Ripper
PRAYER TIMES	
04:18	Fajr
05:46	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42	Dhuhr
16:22	'Asr
19:30	Maghrib

CHURCHES	
21:06	Taha
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetleth, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Amman, winds will be northwesterly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	19 / 31

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue Ministry	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	592, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	691228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	803402
Traffic Police	696390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Polic Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	

Ministry to celebrate Islamic New Year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will hold religious ceremonies at Al Hussein Mosque, downtown Amman, on Wednesday afternoon on the eve of the Kingdom's celebration of the New Islamic Year which falls on Thursday, Aug. 3.

Dr. Mahmud Awatli from the Ministry of Awqaf said that similar religious ceremonies will be held at various mosques throughout the Kingdom.

The government announced that all government institutions and public organisations will remain closed on the occasion.

The Ministry of Awqaf also announced Tuesday that it has embarked on studying reports about the procedure of Hajj, Islamic

pilgrimage to Mecca, performed earlier last month.

The reports have been submitted by special committees supervising the pilgrimage, upon request from the ministry which normally organises the pilgrimage for Jordanian Muslims.

Also Tuesday a Ministry of Awqaf committee charged with supporting the restoration of mosques and carrying out charitable activities, held a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of the ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel.

The committee, which groups representatives of religious organisations in Jordan and Kuwait, is also in charge of allocating funds for handicapped children and the Zakat (alms for the poor) funds.

Government studying sale of Sawt Al Shaab

AMMAN (AP) — Information Minister Nasouh Al Majali said Monday the government is studying sale of the Sawt Al Shaab newspaper, one of three dailies it owns in the Kingdom.

"We are going to start the process of privatising, starting with Sawt Al Shaab," Majali told reporters at a periodic luncheon meeting.

He said it would "not necessarily" also sell off its majority interest in the Kingdom's other two Arabic daily newspapers, Al Ra'i and Al Dustour, which it

took over last year — removing them from the private sector.

The government owns 80 to 85 per cent of Sawt Al Shaab, which claims a circulation of a little over 20,000 a day. A source at the newspaper said it had lost about JD 1 million since 1983.

Majali said an announcement of the sale was expected "very soon."

He said it was possible that some shares would be sold on the local stock market while others might go to groups.

Jordan marks Queen Zein's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Wednesday marks the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaif, the Queen Mother.

On this joyous occasion, the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan extend their warmest wishes and congratulations to Her Majesty and proudly remember her untiring devotion and sacrifices to the Kingdom.

Her Majesty has embodied the greatest sense of motherhood by selflessly devoting her entire life to her eldest son His Majesty King Hussein, her sons Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Prince Hassan, the Crown Prince, and her daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma.

The Queen Mother has also contributed to the strong women's movement in Jordan, leading the way as a staunch defender of women's rights.

The Queen Mother contributes effectively to social and humanitarian services and gives particular attention to



HM Queen Zein Al Sharaif

charitable organisations and voluntary institutions.

She was president of the first women's society in Jordan in 1944 and since then she spared no efforts in providing support for all voluntary and humanitarian causes in the Kingdom.

Much of the Queen Mother's

attention is directed towards an orphanage in Amman named after her, providing it with care, financial assistance and backing.

May Her Majesty enjoy a pleasant birthday and the Jordanian people wish her many happy returns of the day.

Committees begin revising voter lists

AMMAN (J.T.) — Committees entrusted with revising voter lists for the coming parliamentary elections embarked on their task Wednesday and according to the law they have 57 days to complete their work, Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin said.

He said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that nomination of candidates running for elections will take place 25 days before the election day, and that the counting of votes should be completed in one day, according to the election law.

Amin said that the committees are being assisted in their work by information received from the Civil Registration Department and the courts of law because they have to include citizens who reached 19 years of age, who are eligible to vote, and will omit the names of convicted persons who are serving sentences in jail.

The committees, Amin added, will also be dealing with complaints and protests raised by members of the public.

Referring to elections in the capital, Amin said Amman has been divided into seven electoral zones to facilitate the election process and that a total of 21 seats in the coming parliament will be filled by candidates from the Amman area.

The committees embarked on the amendment and revision of the voter lists in the wake of a Royal Decree which was issued Monday, providing for holding parliamentary elections in accordance with the first article of

paragraph 34 of the Jordanian constitution.

The election law states that the cabinet should set the date of the elections following the issuance of the Royal Decree.

The government has not yet announced the exact date for the elections but press reports predict that it will be in November.

Another Royal Decree issued last month endorsed an amendment to the 1986 election law which increased the number of seats in the Lower House of Parliament from 72 to 80.

The amendment included modifications on constituency divisions which, under the revised law will be divided according to governorates except for Amman and Irbid Governorates.

Under the new law, Irbid Governorate will have 19 seats in the coming parliament.

Balqa Governorate eight, Zarqa six, Madraa three, Karak nine, Ma'an five, Tafleh three and the badia six seats.

Petra reported from Karak that a local committee charged with revising voter lists has started its work and is registering citizens wishing to vote in the coming elections.

Karak Governor Favez Al Abbadi said that four centres have been opened in the Karak



Mohammad Ali Al Amin

area for the registration process.

Similar committees have embarked on the task in Tafleh, Zarqa, Irbid and other areas.

Irbid Governor Jawdat Shul said that the Irbid Governorate has been divided into five election areas to facilitate the election process.

He said that a total of 287,121 citizens in the governorate, out of nearly one million people, are eligible to vote, but after the revision of the voter lists the number was expected to jump to 300,000.

Meanwhile, an official at the Ministry of Interior said Tuesday that the committees have been asked to continue the process of registering voters Friday which is a public holiday so as to cope with the number of people wishing to register.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving an agreement between the four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) on cooperating in legal and judicial matters. The agreement signed in Alexandria last month allows for the extradition of criminals among the four member countries. Another Royal Decree issued Tuesday endorsed an amendment to a law concerning the employment of doctors and pharmacists by the Jordanian Armed Forces and their allowances. (Petra)

PRINCESS BASMA OPENS EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday opened an exhibition of natural rose saplings at the Royal Cultural Centre. The proceeds of the three-day exhibition will go to the Friends of Kidney Patients Association. (Petra)

ACC EDUCATION MINISTERS MEET: Minister of Education Dr. Abdullah Nsour has led the Jordanian educational delegation to the first meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of education which opened in Baghdad Tuesday. During the three-day meetings, the ministers will set new strategies for cooperation and coordination in the field of education, unification of curricula, scholarships, as well as making efforts with regard to elimination of illiteracy and teaching the elderly. (Petra)

MAJALI OPENS EXHIBITION OF CARTOONS: Minister of Information and Culture Nasouh Al Majali Tuesday opened an exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rahab Al Sughayyar who used to work for the Jordan Press Foundation, Al Ra'i and Jordan Times. The several-day exhibition, held by the Plastic Artists Association, includes a collection of his works. (Petra)

ASSAD RECEIVES MALAYSIAN ENVOY: Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad Tuesday received the Malaysian ambassador to Jordan at the conclusion of his tour of duty. During the meeting, they discussed means to bolster bilateral relations. (Petra)

NEW INDUSTRIAL GUIDEBOOK: The Amman Chamber of Industry has issued a new guidebook on Jordanian industries for 1989. The guidebooks, issued in Arabic and English, includes a list of Jordanian industrial companies, their various products and size of production. (Petra)

ARAB TRADE, ECONOMIC COOPERATION: Jordan, along with 11 Arab countries, is taking part in a three-day meeting which started in Tunis Tuesday to discuss cooperation in trade and economic cooperation. Facilitating trade among Arab countries and removing all forms of customs restrictions on 36 types of industrial commodities, will be among the subjects to be discussed at the meeting, which is being attended by specialised Arab League organisations and a number of Arab funds and financial institutions. (Petra)

COURSE FOR JUDGES ENDS: A total of twenty-five judges and attorney generals have concluded a month-long course at the Jordan Judicial Institute. (Petra)

ACC chambers of industry will meet in Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA (Petra) — Unions of Chambers of Industry in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will hold a meeting in Alexandria on Aug. 28 and 29 to discuss coordination among the four countries in industry-related affairs.

Dr. Adel Jazairi, head of the Egyptian Industries Federation who made the announcement, said that the Chambers of Industry were expected also to announce the establishment of a

federation for their chambers in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen during the coming two-day meeting. In fact, he said, committees from the four countries have been at work preparing for the federation.

In addition, he said, the coming meeting will discuss the implementation of a number of joint industrial projects and in establishment of an industrial bank benefiting the four countries.

Ein Ghazal archaeological site receives municipal protection

AMMAN (AP) — A major archaeological site won partial protection from development Tuesday when the city of Amman expropriated land for it, the mayor said.

Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said the city expropriated about 40 dunums (roughly 10 acres) at Ein Ghazal on the capital's outskirts and would present it to the Department of Antiquities.

Excavations at Ein Ghazal, which started in 1982, uncovered settlements dating back to about

7,250 B.C. and produced several startling human statues more than 8,600 years old.

The Stone Age village thrived at about the same time as early Jericho — and appears to have been far larger, according to archaeologists.

The first excavation project, led by archaeologists from Jordan, San Diego State University in California and the University of Nevada, Reno, finished last month.

But Department of Antiquities

Director Ghazi Bisha said work would continue. "It's going to take maybe decades to investigate the site," he said.

The site was discovered when bulldozers cut into the earth in building a highway. That development and others destroyed much of the site.

"In a way it's a pity that a large part of it is lost, but we cannot help it," said Bisha, who noted that without the road project, the ancient village would never have been discovered.

Amman-Irbid road project is expected to end in summer 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — A JD 6.5 million road project linking Amman with the northern city of Irbid which was due to be completed last February, is now expected to be accomplished in the summer of 1990, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh.

Work on the project started in March 1987 but due to unexpected difficulties encountered by the local contracting company, there were inevitable delays, the minister said in an exclusive interview with the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper.

The minister noted that the Ministry of Public Works had set up a committee to investigate the delays and to supervise the completion of the project.

"Thanks to the diligent work of the committee at least 65 per cent of the total project has now been completed, and summer 1990 is the new deadline for the total completion," the minister added.

Referring to some of the factors that caused the delay,



Shafiq Zawaideh

Zawaideh said that these included work which was going on simultaneously on electricity, water and telephone networks, especially at municipal areas such as Husein and Nuweimeh.

The Irbid-Amman project was awarded to a local company and the Ministry of Public Works is keen on such practice in order to give the chance to local contractors to undertake major projects, Zawaideh pointed out.

In the past five years the Ministry of Public Works awarded a total of JD 655 million worth of road projects to all contractors and nearly JD 448 million went to local contractors, Zawaideh noted.

Foreign firms awarded tenders for building roads normally employ Jordanian labourers and a lot of the locally produced building materials, the minister added.

The minister disclosed that due to the present economic situation in Jordan a number of road projects have been cancelled during 1989 and in planning projects for 1990 the ministry will take into consideration the fact that such reduction in road projects will continue.

But the minister said that allocations will be made for important projects to be implemented during the coming year in addition to maintenance work on existing roads.

Technical college to provide 4-year scientific courses for Yarmouk

IRBID (J.T.) — A technical college affiliated to Yarmouk University will provide four year courses in electronics, communications, computers as well as energy distribution and control starting from the coming 1989-1990 academic year, according to an announcement by the college dean, Dr. Mohammad Abu Saleh.

Abu Saleh explained that the

college, which was established in 1984, used to turn out graduates with three-year courses awarding them only a diploma, but arrangements have been made so that from now on graduates will receive a B.Sc. degree in these specialisations.

Special laboratories have now been installed at the University to provide courses in these fields, which are of great demand in the

local market and abroad, Abu Saleh added.

When the college was first established it admitted only 54 students but in the coming year a total of 180 students with Tawjihi certificates at an average of at least 80 per cent will be admitted, Abu Saleh pointed out.

Abu Saleh said that the college was financed by Hasham Adib Hijawi and was named after him.



Students at the Hijawi College receive training in energy distribution and control.



ARAMCO gets \$50,000 to Bethlehem University

AMMAN — The Arab-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) of Saudi Arabia has donated \$50,000 to Bethlehem University to help it carry out with its educational tasks in the occupied Arab territories. A cheque for the sum was handed to Bethlehem University President Dr. Raouf Najjar

by ARAMCO representative in Jordan Jamal Al Sarairah, who wished the university continued success in its endeavours. ARAMCO spends more than a million dollars annually in support of Arab universities and charitable organisations in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands (Petra photo)

Arab anti-smoking conference to be held in Amman on Sept. 2

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Towards an Anti-Smoking Arab Society" will be the slogan of the second Arab anti-smoking conference, to be held in Amman from Sept. 2 to 4. The conference is organised by the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Council of Arab Health Ministers and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

According to the president of the preparatory committee of the conference, Dr. Mohammad Shreim, all Arab countries were invited, and hopefully will participate.

The opening session will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and closed working sessions are to be held at the Philadelphia Hotel.

Speaking in a press conference Tuesday, Shreim announced that the conference will decide upon the naming of the unified Arab action against smoking, preliminarily called "the Anti-Smoking Arab Group."

"The conference will endorse the basic law and internal system for the group, to be based in Amman, and will issue an official statement to announce the creation of the group," he said.

Shreim stressed the importance of such a group, so as to find the best ways to fight smoking, by which time, effort and money will be saved.

He added that the group aims at defining the size and nature of the smoking problem in the Arab World, so as to reach unified and coordinated efforts and plans to fight smoking and protect the coming generations from its dangers.

"The group also aims at changing social values regarding the smoking habit, and will try to highlight its negative effects on

the individuals and the society as a whole," he said.

In its vigorous drive against smoking, the group will aim to spread awareness concerning the health, social and economic hazards of smoking on the individual and the community.

It will encourage the inclusion of the smoking problem in school curricula, in addition to the holding of local and national seminars and conferences.

Anti-smoking societies and organisations are also to be formed in the Arab countries that do not, yet, have such activities, on the popular and formal levels.

Dr. Azmi Sharayha, a member of the administrative committee of the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society, who is also a member of the preparation committee, spoke at the press conference, highlighting the activities of the society.

"The society, which was founded in 1981 and currently presided by the Minister of Health Dr. Zuhair Malhas, has come a long way from where it first started. One of the major achievements of the society was the organising of numerous anti-smoking seminars, in which we tried to educate the citizens about the dangers of smoking. It also took part in open-panel discussions through radio, in which the problem of

smoking was thoroughly discussed," he said.

According to Shreim, the society will carry out a comprehensive statistical study, in which the size of the smoking problem will be defined. "This is a unique study that has not yet been carried out in any other Arab country," Shreim said.

Attending the press conference, was also Dr. Abdul Majeed Al Tal, who said: "We are in a food security crisis in the Arab World. Eighty per cent of what we eat and drink is imported.

Tobacco has a big hand in the crisis, since it is planted and manufactured in many Arab countries, such as Jordan, Syria and Iraq. 30,000-40,000 dunums of the best agricultural land are planted with tobacco in Jordan. This consequently results in the decrease of space on land meant for planting food," he said.

Tal said that aside from the fact that chemicals used for treating tobacco are very expensive, a notable amount is absorbed in the plant and later on is transferred to the human body.

Tal then pointed out that the West, in its attempts to counteract the tobacco industry, has picked up a new trend, switching from medication to food, and that the Arab World is advised to follow this example.

CONDOLENCES

The chief editor and staff of the Jordan Times express their deep condolences and sympathy with their colleague, Mathews Edavazhakkal Mathai, over the untimely death of his wife,

LEELA

aged 27, who passed away Tuesday, Aug. 1, after giving birth to triplets.

May the departed soul rest in peace

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rahab Al Sughayyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.
- ★ A graphic art exhibition by students of Fine Arts Department at the Yarmouk University.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture entitled "The Middle East: Ten Years After Camp David" by Dr. William Quandt, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, at the American Centre — 6:00 p.m.

National Medical Institute
Institute of Education
Institute of Technology
Institute of Management
Institute of Social Sciences
Institute of Arts and Letters
Institute of Law
Institute of Economics
Institute of History
Institute of Geography
Institute of Agriculture
Institute of Forestry
Institute of Fisheries
Institute of Livestock
Institute of Poultry
Institute of Aquaculture
Institute of Food Science
Institute of Food Technology
Institute of Food Safety
Institute of Food Quality
Institute of Food Preservation
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1972

جورن التيمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Israeli terrorism

U.S. SENATE minority leader Robert Dole was of course right when he openly and strongly criticised Israel for abducting Lebanese Shi'ite leader Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid. The operation, Dole correctly asserted, has precipitated the killing of American hostages William Higgins and threatened the lives of nine American hostages and scores of others including Terry Waite. It is worthwhile recalling that Senator Dole has this to say in the aftermath of the kidnapping of Sheikh Obeid: "I would hope the Israelis would take another look at some of their actions which they must know in advance endanger American lives." He went on to say: "When it endangers the lives of Americans in some foreign country perhaps a little more responsibility on the part of the Israelis one of these days would be refreshing."

Obviously Dole and many silent Americans have decided to speak up to release their pent up frustrations with Israel's behaviour. For much too long Israel was outrageously contemptuous of international norms and guidelines and often acted like a bandit state unperturbed by international law and customary nation-state rules. By taking the law into its own hands for decades, its vision and national behaviour became so distorted and warped that even its closest allies and friends became enraged and exasperated by its actions.

Surely Israel must know that it is one thing for an organisation or a group to engage in piracy and kidnapping and quite another for a modern state to lower itself so often to the same standard of behaviour. The central problem here is that Israel was allowed to get away with murder for so long that it got to the point where it calculates that it can continue to get away with murder, kidnapping, demolition of homes and expulsion of people from their country without causing much of a stir where it counts most.

Still, all these explanations would not lessen the gravity of the execution of Lt. Colonel Higgins, who was in the service of the United Nations when he was abducted a year and a half ago. His outrageous killing was apparently a reaction to the kidnapping of Sheikh Obeid and therefore he sadly paid with his own blood for the blatantly unstate-like abduction of Obeid by the Israeli army.

Now it seems that the lives of Terry Waite and others are also threatened unless Israel releases Sheikh Obeid forthwith. Under the circumstances it behoves Sheikh Obeid to exercise Islamic traditions, at their most solemn and sublime levels, by appealing to his people and supporters to refrain from further shedding of innocent blood in reaction to Israel's lawlessness. By taking the first compassionate move, Sheikh Obeid would surely gain the sympathy and support of all mankind which will surely galvanise on such a scale that his release would become imminent. By such a gesture, the true colour of Islam would shine ever more brilliantly for all other civilisations to see and appreciate.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AN editorial in Tuesday's edition of Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd on issues of concern to the Arab Nation. The paper said that the Palestine question in general and means to support the intifada in particular were at the top of the list of topics discussed by the two leaders. But the two monarchs have other issues on their mind too ranging from the situation in Lebanon and means to end the bloodshed there to bilateral subjects, the paper noted. The two leaders are deeply concerned over the interests of the Arab Nation and it is natural for them to come together and discuss issues like Lebanon and Palestine which have deep effect on the whole Arab Nation, the paper continued. King Hussein's endeavours, the paper said, do not stop at any Arab border but transcend all Arab lands where action is to be taken to safeguard Arab interests. There is no doubt, added the paper, that the economic situation in the Kingdom also will have a special attention at the talks in Saudi Arabia.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that the Jordanian people can not help sympathising with the family of the assassinated American colonel who was abducted and then killed in Lebanon in retaliation for Israel's terrorist actions and kidnapping of a local religious leader. Abdul Rahim Omar says that Israel and the United States are to blame for the escalation of tension and the continued bloodshed in the whole area, and for all Israel's atrocities committed against the innocent Arab people of Lebanon and Palestine. Israel has ignored a threat by the group that killed Higgins and has unsuccessfully tried to trade the abducted religious leader with three Israeli soldiers held by the same group, and thus it has caused the United States and the United Nations forces in Lebanon to lose an innocent soldier, the writer notes. He says that the Israelis have not succeeded in their evil plots neither has the United States secured the release of the abducted colonel thanks to the official and organised Israeli terrorist actions in the region. Had there been no Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon in the first place, adds the writer, there would have never been any reason for the colonel and the U.N. forces to be present in that area, and had there been no Israeli abduction of the Shi'ite sheikh there would have never been any killing.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the coming parliamentary elections in Jordan and said that with the royal decree issued Monday the way is thus paved for the elections in the Kingdom. The decree was the first step coming in the wake of an end to all obstacles in the way of the elections and following preparations by the Ministry of Interior, said the paper. It noted that the local newspapers are now full of notices by the hopeful candidates urging the public to vote for them in the coming election expected in November. It seems that everything is gearing up for the elections in Jordan and it is a novelty for thousands of youths who are voting for the first time in their lives, added the paper. What is hoped, the paper added, is to see a greater awareness among the public so that the coming parliament will group true representatives of the Jordanian people.

ECOLIGHT

The dilemma of economic success

By Jawad Anani

THE paathans of Asia are now at the centre of world attention. They are truly the champions of the global economy in the decade 1985-1994. Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong have swept the world markets. Their total share of world trade has been increasing at astronomical rates, and their annual trade volume exceeds \$400 billion. They have under their disposal the largest foreign exchange reserves.

Taiwan merits special attention. This island of 36,000 square kilometres and twenty million people is showing a marvellous success. Twenty years ago they were famous for their cheap skilled labour, their textile and toys, and heavy dependence on exports to the U.S. Meanwhile, they had to stand ready for possible outside invasion, basically from mainland China. Thus, a good share of their hard work had to be allocated for defence purposes.

Taiwan is about 65 per cent mountains. The main natural resource these mountains avail is marble and granite and some semi-precious stones. The rest of the country is flat lands hosting the major cities and intensive agricultural activity. Despite that, the Taiwanese were able, through hard work, discipline and good

planning to achieve self-sufficiency in food and even export a substantial surplus.

The country's modern history started in 1949 when General Chiang Kai Chek arrived with his loyal troops and subjects into Formosa from mainland China. The job of assimilating the new migrants with the indigenous population started with a relatively high degree of success. The story of a forty year trip from rags to riches culminated in a country which feels that it is victimised by world politics and balance of power struggle that is treating them with injustice.

Taiwan's success is not without a price. A friend of mine, Mr. Li, keeps telling me: "We have too much freedom now. Our kids are spoiled and they want more and more everyday." Taipei is a city surrounded by mountains, and clouds of smog fill peoples' lungs. Traffic jams is a problem, and building more roads and freeways is very expensive in a country where the price of a square metre of land could reach \$50,000.

No matter what its problems are, Taiwan is a country that stands as an example for other countries eager to achieve

sustainable economic growth with abundant human skills, scarce natural resources and large external threats.

The country is fully aware of the challenges which lie ahead. They plan to meet them with vigour. Yet Taiwan is like Jordan in many ways. In success Taiwan has to keep standing on its toes, and periods of downturns it has to strive for survival. So far, Taiwan managed to carry through with flying colours.

The Far East is unique. It has its own deep rivalries. Yet, the people in that part of the world manage to find a civilised way to keep peace and shrug aside the notion of open direct conflicts. Instead of war, General Weizo Chiang, son of Chiang Kai Chek, and chairman of Taiwan's National Security Council advocates what he calls "mellow offensive." It means "do not fight your enemy with your men. Pressure him to break from within."

Success has its problems. It leads to higher expectations. New generations begin to complain of the old ways. If the inter-generational diversity of opinions is not narrowed, seeds of conflict could prosper. This is the real human challenge facing Asia's tigers.

Christians, Israel and the intifada

By Daoud Kuttab

THERE has long been a complex relationship between the Israeli authorities and the Christian community in the Holy Land. The Israelis largely succeeded in dealing differently with the religious leadership and the Christian community. The fact that the spiritual leadership mainly consists of foreign nationals, while the community is Palestinian, helped Israel maintain this dual relationship.

For many years the Israelis have managed to keep the spiritual leadership either apolitical or pro-Israeli, despite the nationalist sentiments of the Palestinian Christian community. In return, the Israeli authorities provided the leaders with certain privileges. The church leaders' control over the community stems from the fact that the church is a major land owner and a provider of homes and salaries to many Christians. Also the fact that all issues relating to changes in personal status (marriages, divorces and inheritance papers) and controlled by the church gives its leaders another source of power.

It is against this background that Jerusalem's Israeli Mayor Teddy Kollek was shocked by a strongly anti-Israel political statement issued by the heads of the Christian communities in Jerusalem in late April. Normally calm and restrained, Kollek responded angrily by claiming that the statement was the product of "Muslim terror" and that the Christian community was being threatened by the Muslim majority. This was untrue, and Kollek never provided any evidence for it, but it reflected another area where the gap between Israel and those living in the areas occupied in 1967 was widening.

Ever since the Israeli occupation, the authorities have been successful in claiming the support, or at least the lack of antagonism, of the Christian community's leaders. Unlike its relations with the Islamic waqf, the Israelis have gone to great lengths to stay on good terms with the church leaders, who generally have excellent relations with Israel's firm supporters in Israel and the U.S. good relations with Israel were also the desire of church leaders themselves, who wanted to preserve their properties and privileges. The Israeli government exempted the church from paying taxes (the Islamic

waqf is forced to pay), granted them VIP treatment at the border crossings, and issued them special diplomatic license plates.

But while the Israeli government was generous to the church leaders, they treated Palestinian Christians with less enthusiasm. At first, the Israeli military authorities used gentle tactics on the villages and towns that had large Christian populations, but when the Christians resisted the Israeli occupation as strongly as the Muslims, they were treated in the same way.

The power of the Greek Orthodox Church

Israel was able to get away with this dual policy for a long time, continuing its excellent relations with church leaders while persecuting their communities. This duality was also able to survive, because, in most cases, the leaders stressed the apolitical nature of their roles.

The religious traditions in Jerusalem and the Holy Land were also a major plus for the Israelis. These provide the Greek Orthodox Church with immense power. The oldest Christian church in Jerusalem is considered the "Mother Church" and no other church has the power or the right to initiate any action, especially any unified action, without its support and consent. The Israelis also tried very hard to keep on good terms with the Patriarch and the bishops, who were all Greek nationals. In many instances the hierarchy took advantage of this relationship by using their privilege of crossing to the West Bank in their own cars without being searched to smuggle illegal materials. In one instance, the Israelis discovered gold and drugs in the car of the Greek Orthodox patriarch and did nothing. Some observers think that a deal was struck in which the Patriarch would render certain things Israel needed — property or political support? — while the Israelis would keep the lid on the story and take no action against him.

The effect of the intifada

But the intifada brought an end to the double standards that Israel was applying. The Christian community began to put pressure on the leaders to take a stand against what was happening in the occupied territories. Pressure was also coming from the Catholic Church which, unlike

the Orthodox, was witnessing a major process of Palestinianisation of its clergy. The appointment of a Palestinian at its head increased the pressure on church leaders to take a political stand.

For months after the intifada started the churches did little. In January 1988 they called for a week of prayer and fasting and said that the church stood with the oppressed, but did little to follow this up. Even when predominantly Christian towns like Beit Sahur and Beit Jala were under curfew, the church leaders were unable to do more than visit them after the curfew had been lifted.

Two months ago, however, the Greek Orthodox Church suddenly became genuinely interested in political issues. Sources close to the church said that this began

after a visit by the church spokesman, Bishop Timothy, to Greece, one of the PLO's strongest European supporters. When a Palestinian youth was gunned down in the old city of Jerusalem, the Orthodox patriarch and his entourage visited the family and brought them gifts of food and clothing. All the other church leaders followed suit. When the issue of the traditional Palm Sunday march was being discussed, the Orthodox religious leaders called for it to be cancelled because of the intifada.

The Orthodox went a step further: they asked the leaders of all the major churches in Jerusalem to sign a joint statement concerning the situation in the occupied territories. It was the strongest statement against Israel

issued by the Christian leaders since 1967. It spoke about collective punishment, indiscriminate killings, demolition of homes, violations of the right to worship, imprisonment without trial and deportations and called for the opening of the schools and universities.

It is not known exactly why the Greek Orthodox Church has changed its tune. It could be that the pressure from the community has reached a stage where the leadership can no longer sit on the fence. The Greek government could also have been a major factor in the church's politicisation. It is widely known that the Greek consul-general in Jerusalem was not happy with the church's apathy towards the plight of Palestinians.

Another reason could be that the Orthodox Church realises that changes on the ground are certain to come and therefore it wants to have better relations with the Palestinian national movement — it does not want to be caught backing the losing side. In this respect, it is noteworthy that a major American mission organisation, whose leaders have asked that they should not be identified at present, is planning to break away from their parent organisation, which is close to the Israelis, and to establish a separate mission board strictly for East Jerusalem and the West Bank. It is becoming clear that Israel can no longer count on unquestioned support from the Christian religious authorities in Jerusalem — Middle East International, London.

Black opposition groups brace for government 'peace offensive'

By David Cray
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — For the first time, major anti-apartheid groups are acknowledging the possibility that the white government may try to seize the initiative in proposing a negotiated end to South Africa's racial conflict.

The prospect of a government "peace offensive" — perhaps including the release of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela — has prompted the ANC's exiled leadership and its supporters in South Africa to seek a unified stance regarding negotiations. They hope to reach a consensus within a week.

The activists and ANC guerrilla commanders say the government's manoeuvrings, including diplomatic overtures toward black Africa and President P.W. Botha's recent chat with Mandela, do not represent a sincere desire to end white-minority domination.

But the ANC, which has waged an anti-government bombing and sabotage campaign since 1961, appears worried that world opinion could tilt in the government's direction unless it comes up with a concrete, reasonable alternative

to any proposals for talks put forward from other quarters.

"The issue facing us now is how to keep the initiative in our hands on this strategic matter of negotiations," the ANC said in a document drafted earlier this month.

"What positions should be elaborated to ensure that it is our opponent who is forced to respond to us and not the other way around?" the document asked. "Clearly, as a revolutionary movement, we cannot afford to fall behind the regime and fall into a defensive position, with the regime maintaining the offensive."

A more explicit statement, made public last week, was drafted in June at ANC headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia, after a meeting involving leaders of the biggest militant opposition groups in South Africa — the United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

The statement predicted that National Party leader F.W. de Klerk, expected to be elected president on Sept. 6, would back his call for all-party negotiations by meeting some of the long-standing preconditions of the ANC, such as releasing Mandela and his colleagues, lifting the

state of emergency, and easing restrictions on opposition political activity.

As a result, the statement predicted, the ANC would face international pressure to abandon violence and possibly to modify its political demands, which include a Socialist-oriented economy and a constitution affording no special protection for whites.

"We have to present proposals on this issue before the rest of the world comes up with something," the joint statement said. "We need to formulate a concept which does not surrender our political strategy to take power."

News reports in South Africa — by state-controlled and independent media — suggest the militants are in a state of near-panic, fearing that the government's concept of negotiations might be accepted by longtime ANC supporters such as the Soviet Union and black African states.

Militant leaders deny any disarray. But they acknowledged in last month's joint statement a "need to act swiftly" and have been trying to formulate a position to present to the Organisation of African Unity at its annual summit meeting.

De Klerk says the National Party will extend voting rights to

the black majority within five years. He was indicated his party will insist on some sort of veto power over major policy decisions and will demand the continuation of segregated schools and neighbourhoods for whites who want them.

A United Democratic Front official, Mohammad Valli Moosa, said the government's "present utterances are not about genuine negotiations."

"In an attempt to break out of the crisis, (the government) is showing a false readiness to change so that they may demolish the masses inside the country and ease international pressure," Valli Moosa said in a speech.

Such skepticism is understandable in light of past instances where the government raised false hopes of change. But this time, the government's agreement to grant independence to Namibia and its increasing contacts with black African states have improved its international standing, and the ANC might find it awkward to dismiss a "peace offensive" too easily. Herman Cohen, the top African specialist in the U.S. State Department, predicted last month that De Klerk would come up with "interesting proposals" after the September election.

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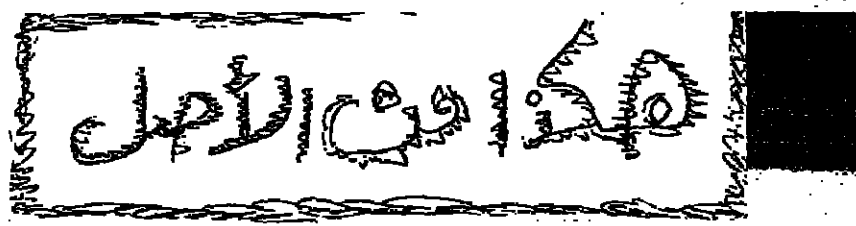
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Islam and family planning

By Maher Mahran

Professor Dr. Maher Mahran is Secretary-General of the Egyptian National Population Council in Cairo

IN the time of the Prophet Mohammad, Muslims — both men and women — were never shy to ask the prophet about all affairs, including such private matters as sexual life, so as to know the teachings and rulings of their religion concerning them. As Aisha, the wife of the prophet testified: "Blessed are the women of the Anser (the citizens of Medina). Shyness did not stand in their way of seeking knowledge about their religion."

The way the women asked the prophet — directly or through his wives — is a proof that sexual matters were not taboo but were fully acknowledged and respected. "Shyness is part of the faith" as the prophet taught, but he also taught "There is no shyness in matters of religion" — even entailing the most delicate aspects of sexual life.

It is our firm belief that facts about sex should be taught to children in a way commensurate with their age as they grow up — both by the family and by the school. We emphasize that this should be done within the total context of Islamic ideology and Islamic teaching, so that young people — besides getting the correct physiological knowledge — become fully aware of the sanctity of sexual relations in Islam and the grave sin of blemishing such sanctity, whether under Islamic law or — far more important — in the sight of God. Provided the Islamic conscience is developed, we see no reason to shun sex education (as is unfortunately the rule in many Muslim countries). We believe it is better to give the correct teaching than to leave this to chance and to incorrect sources, and to the concomitant feeling of guilt resulting from the hush-hush atmosphere in which this is done.

Teaching about sex should also have its place in the curricula of medical schools, as it has in Kuwait and in Egypt. There should be no difficulty whatsoever with our religious and rather conservative men and women students, since the subject is taught within an Islamic perspective.

There is no doubt that family planning is a sexual problem. The aim of using contraception is to

have safe sex, sex which is free from the risk of unwanted pregnancy. However, an ideal contraceptive should not interfere with the act of sex. Proper counselling is essential for couples who want a happy family.

Some contraceptive methods may create sexual problems by their side-effects. In the case of steroids, for instance, breakthrough bleeding is a common complaint among users of low-dose pills, injectables and subdermal implants. In our culture, sex is usually not practised if the woman is bleeding. Breakthrough bleeding is an important reason for dropout because the husband does not want any constraint on his sexual activity. In rare cases steroid contraception may also cause diminished libido, or affect the woman's attractive feminine appearance by causing obesity, acne and breast atrophy.

The intrauterine device (IUD), if not correctly fitted, may cause pain to the husband during intercourse. Breakthrough bleeding and a higher incidence of menorrhagia and polymenorrhoea can be a sexual drawback, diminishing the sexual availability of the wife. Leucorrhoea, frequently associated with IUD, may interfere with sexual pleasure, especially that of the husband, whose wife may worry because she cannot meet her husband's sexual needs.

Methods which are directly related to the act of sexual intercourse include coitus interruptus, coitus reservatus, coitus inter-mora, or the use of condom and diaphragm. These methods interfere with normal physiological sexual relations. The call for very high self-control in the case of physiological methods, and good training in the case of the diaphragm and the condom. They are not as reliable as the pill or the IUD. Moreover these techniques cannot be recommended at the beginning of marriage when there should be no constraint on sexual relations.

The advantages

Despite these potential problems, the use of effective contraceptive methods will relieve all the worries of an unwanted pregnancy, and consequently the wife usually participates more actively in sexual relations. Some women react towards unprotected sexual relations by vaginismus or spasmodic contraction of the sphincter vaginae muscle, causing painful or difficult inter-



A religious leader in Egypt discusses family planning with a women's group.

course.

There are other advantages. Some contraceptives such as the pill can regulate the woman's cycle and normalise the menstrual blood loss, making her available for sexual relations for the longest possible time. The use of steroid contraception will also, in the majority of cases, improve sexual appetite and give the woman a feeling of well-being which will contribute to a better sexual relation. Condom use can improve or even cure the occurrence of premature ejaculation by the husband by slightly diminishing sexual sensitivity. And condoms, of course, play a major role in the prevention of sexually transmitted disease, particularly AIDS.

Counselling is one of the main pillars of family health and an important component of family life education. Indeed, family planning services cannot be effective without good counselling, and a woman who comes for this service should not be regarded as a patient. Lack of counselling is a major cause behind the failure of many family planning programmes.

But this in turn calls for a counsellor who is well informed about reproduction, human sexuality, methods of contraception, mechanism of action, side-effects, contra-indications and how to recognise them. He or she should be interested in people, sympathetic and a good listener. The couple should be taught to recognise the side-effects, and should know when to come for consultation and when to stop using a given method. The counsellor should help them to choose the best method and encourage them to persist in its use.

Some methods of family planning need education and training for both clients, doctors and nurses. Doctors need to be properly trained in how to insert an IUD, otherwise there could be a risk of it perforating the uterus, or they might position the device outside the uterine cavity where it loses its contraceptive effect. They should also be trained in how to take it out properly. Otherwise complications may develop. More training for doctors is needed in the insertion and removal of subdermal implants. And nurses in developing countries must be trained to give properly an intramuscular contraceptive injection.

As for the clients, women particularly need to have good information about the physiology and anatomy of the reproductive system. A knowledge of physiology is needed if natural family planning methods such as checking the viscosity of the cervical mucus or the calendar method are used. Women should be trained to locate the cervix in order to be able to insert a diaphragm or a cervical cap properly, to detect the IUD thread after every menstrual cycle, to detect the tip of the IUD if it is partially expelled, or to get a sample of cervical mucus for assessment — World Health.

Schools — secret is not in the hours

By Reinhard Urschel

A FEW years ago a schoolboy writer for a south German school magazine made a monkey of the staff in the simplest of ways.

He asked each teacher how much time he ought to spend daily on digesting and recapitulating what he had learnt.

The answers varied, from a quarter of an hour to an hour and a half per subject per day. None of the teachers seems to have noticed the twinkle in their interviewer's eye.

All he did was add up the total and — surprise, surprise — it was 26 hours a day.

The young practical joker proved, incidentally, that the teaching profession was not up to date where "secondary literature" about them was concerned.

This particular ploy was described in detail in a 1960s book entitled *Zur Holle mit den Pauken* which listed ways of getting even with your teacher.

Education Minister Horst Herrmann of Lower Saxony may have been forewarned on this point. Soon after assuming office last year he noticed that many pupils have a longer working day than their teachers — and are in no position to lament as bitterly as teachers often do.

So he convened a two-day conference attended by academics and educationalists, psychologists and other members of the medical profession, parents and teachers.

He did so out of a sense of responsibility towards schoolchildren and with a view to compiling scientific facts in support of his idea of shortening schoolchildren's working hours and streamlining the curriculum.

The conference dealt with School-children's "Working Hours" — *The Strain and Burden of School and Environment*.

Educationalists last looked into stress at school in the 1970s, when they were more concerned with ideological aspects than they are today.

There was heated debate about whether homework constituted trespassing on domestic life, whether learning arts techniques by rote was more than superfluous ballast and, getting closer to the nitty gritty, whether continual reforms were not generating more pressure than they set out to ease.

Many will recall, and not with pleasure, slogans such as *Leistungsdruck* (pressure to perform), *Notenterror* (grading terror) and *Schulereleid* (pupil hardship).

The humane school campaign was launched, with the strong support of Free Democrat Hildegarde Hamm-Brucher, then a leading Bavarian education ex-

pert and member of the Bonn coalition.

She drew up a documentation on what was called the "alarming increase in exaggerated demands made on pupils and its repercussions." It made headline news with its basic query: "Is school making our children kaputt, and with them freedom and democracy?"

This idea took root. A few years later Werner Remmers, Lower Saxon Education Minister, felt able to claim that school was held responsible for all society's shortcomings and seen as some kind of repair workshop.

To this day the debate has not progressed much further. It has merely been joined by a new angle: leisure stress as an adjunct to school stress.

At the Hannover conference a Munich youth expert, Richard Munchmeier, outlined his view of the "two worlds" in which today's schoolchildren live.

Their leisure is packed full of colourful, fashionable, brief experiences of the kind constantly suggested by the advertising industry. They are engaged in an incessant quest for "action."

School, in contrast, is everyday, humdrum, deliberately played down and regarded as of limited importance.

"Whenever school is mentioned," Munchmeier said, "the first, crucial point on which agreement must be reached is *Schule ist Scheisse* (school is crap). Then the discussion can continue."

Conservative teachers and educationalists attribute this change in standards to a permissive society that permits anything and no longer sets standards.

Munchmeier's explanation is similar, but simpler. It is that young people today are allowed more freedom (the key of the door, to stay out for as long as they like, to make friends of the other sex), but this leeway doesn't really make them free. On the contrary, it gives rise to pressure.

The experts who still feel that a sense of pressure at school is due mainly to school itself are a declining band.

Frankfurt educationalist Professor Mitter told the conference that German schoolchildren spent about 10,300 hours at school before taking their Abitur, or university entrance exam.

The only country where the hours put in are longer in Japan, where pupils put in over 11,000 hours in 12 years at school.

The curriculum has ceased to be a bone of contention. Years of fruitless attempts to eliminate trying to teach too much material as a source of stress have evidently so tired the experts that they are now even keener to

identify extra-curricular causes.

Thomas Olk of Bielefeld University claims to have discovered a striking contradiction. He starts with the contention, borrowed from educationalists in the Ancient World, that young people have never had it so good.

Over half today's 14-year-olds have TV sets of their own. Over 70 per cent have their own Walkman. Twenty-one per cent even have a personal computer of their own.

On average they get about DM50 a month in pocket money. But in this golden, material world growing pressure is brought to bear on them.

"Parents today project their expectations with regard to performance and career on to an only child," Olk says.

In middle-class families in particular, children today have become "a crystallisation point for parental wishful thinking." He feels many children are overtaxed as a result, emotionally speaking.

This was the point at which the conference could count itself lucky that Cornelia Giesecke, a 16-year-old schoolgirl, took to the rostrum and told the assembled experts what life was really like.

Invited by the Education Ministry and selected by her headmaster, she told a tale that is probably typical of the average pupil.

She leaves home at 6.45 a.m., walking the mile and a half to the bus stop in all weathers. It is a 20-minute bus drive, longer in ice and snow.

On average she has six lessons a day, with music at Monday lunchtime. Until two years ago she had a double gym lesson a week on Wednesday afternoon because the gym was fully booked in the morning.

It was a tight schedule, what with confirmation lessons, lunch, homework in the afternoon and, when the need arose, homework in the evening too.

On various days in the week she goes in for folk dancing, gymnastics, choir singing and ballet, none of which she sees as leisure activities.

Her leisure is strictly limited even though, like all German schoolchildren, she goes to school early in the morning, with lessons over for the most part by lunchtime.

She feels she is so busy that she doesn't have as much spare time as she would like to spend at the cinema or the swimming baths with friends. She says she can't really afford any other hobbies because school is so important for her future.

Cornelia's unvarnished truth made the assembled experts pause for breath. It gave the cue for a phenomenon Haus Rauschenberger of Kassel University dubbed "appointment schedule children."

Their parents start planning schedules for them while they are still at kindergarten. Leisure activities are arranged not to clash with music lessons or art courses.

There must be no dawdling at the baths because they are to qualify for a badge or certificate the week after next. Schedules such as these may be child's play for the very young; many schoolchildren find them too much.

The assembled educationalists and sociologists evidently felt this was the approach they had long sought, a social phenomenon they could analyse in detail but would no less certainly be unable to change.

Herr Herrmann was mistaken in imagining that teachers past or present (university professors invariably prefaced their remarks by saying they too had once been teachers) might say just how school could jettison ballast and ease the workload of what has officially been calculated to be a 54-hour week worked by German schoolchildren.

Predictably, teachers' unions concluded that there could be no cuts in what was taught. Parents were worried less might be learnt, while educationalists clamoured for more time for leisure and contemplation (but failed to explain where it was to come from). *Hannoversche Allgemeine*.

The lobster mystery

By Marcia Emery
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Maine lobstermen are laying three times as much bait and scientists have even tried raising lobster larvae in test tanks, but the harvest of the tasty crustaceans hasn't increased in 20 years.

Marine biologists from the University of Maine and Bigelow Laboratory in West Boothbay are conducting a 10-day research cruise next month, and hope their investigation of breeding grounds will help explain the inability of lobstermen to increase their annual catch.

The lobstermen, some of whom have volunteered to help biologists as they map the ocean floor, are hoping the investigation will lead to bigger catches.

Lobster production is vital to Maine's economy, not least because of its contribution to tourism.

"We want to make sure that resource is around a thousand years from now. It's so much a part of our income, our history and our art, it's just incredibly important to us," said Dave Dow, director of the Lobster Institute, a trade organisation affiliated with the University of Maine.

The harvest of the "bugs," as they are affectionately called by lobstermen, has remained at about 9.5 million kilograms per year during the past two decades, despite legal, scientific, and practical measures to increase it.

Biologists at the Cutler Marine hatchery have coaxed thousands of lobster eggs to grow at a quickened rate in warm-water tanks and then stocked coastal waters with the immature larvae.

State legislators have gradually increased the minimum size limit, hoping more females would mature and reproduce.

And lobstermen have worked harder; they haul about triple the number of traps they put out 20 years ago. But the lobstermen have refused to take the extra bait, according to the Lobster Institute.

In next month's cruise, five scientists aboard the research vessel *Argo Maine* will survey four major lobstering sites in the Gulf of Maine off the coast of the northeastern United States.

They will use sonar to determine the sea bottom's characteristics; search for and count larval lobsters; scuba dive to survey lobster densities, shelter sizes and abundance of predators; and sample ocean bottom sediment for invertebrates.

The investigation could affect where lobstermen set their traps, as well as plans to stock coastal waters, said Dave Cousins, a lobsterman from south Thomaston, 120 kilometres northeast of Portland.

University of Maine Marine Biologist Robert Steneck, one of the project leaders, has sought for eight years to explain the static harvest.

"His theory operates on the premise that something in nature limits our productivity out there," Dow said.

The limiting factor could be the amount of suitable habitat the lobsters can live in, the amount of food available for the creatures, or the ecological balance of lobsters and their predators, Dow said.

The lobsters go through three planktonic, or swimming stages, before they are ready to settle on the sea bottom, and the suitable bottom habitat is distributed in patches along the shoreline.

"If mother nature, because of the way she works the tides and currents, doesn't allow delivery to the appropriate habitats, that's going to be important for the overall production," Dow said.

The public's appetite for lobster also is matched by the appetites of various marine creatures, he said.

"There's a million lobster-seeking missiles waiting for those little fellows to hit the bottom... these little fellows are subject to thousands of attacks a day."

Large Codfish have been found to contain up to a dozen lobsters when they are cut open, Dow said.

Inspiration

Barbara Hendricks (singer)

SINCE her debut at the San Francisco Opera in 1976, Barbara Hendricks, born in the United States on 20 November 1948, has sung in all the world's big musical capitals: Boston, Hamburg, Milan, Berlin, Paris, Los Angeles, London and Vienna. She has given numerous recitals in the United States and Europe, but also in the Soviet Union and Japan. She has sung with the best orchestras, and appeared in the most prestigious festivals, from Edinburgh to Osaka and from Salzburg to Aix en Provence. This summer, she will perform one of her finest roles, Panina, in Mozart's "Magic Flute", at the Festival d'Orange. Barbara Hendricks is not only a very great singer, she is also Ambassador Extraordinary of the United Nations for Refugees and an active supporter of numerous organisations for the defence of Human Rights.

According to you, what are the most outstanding events of the French Revolution: the Declaration of the Rights of Man, the death of the king and the fall of the monarchy, the abolition of privileges, the advent of the Republic, the Constitution which was the application of the philosophy of Enlightenment, or the guillotine? Why?

The Declaration of the Rights of Man because it is an event of universal scope, and not anecdotal like the other events. Would you have actively participated in the French Revolution or would you have fought against it?

I would, of course, have fought for the ideas of liberty, but I would certainly not have been able to take part in the barbarity linked to the revolutionary context.

Which is the most important human right, in your opinion? Equality between all men, as specified in article 1 of the Declaration.

Do the principles of the Declaration of the Rights of Man inspire your actions? In what ways?

They inspire all the aspects of my life. Every day, I fight in favour of human rights. More precisely, I am a "good will ambassador" at the High Commission for refugees in the United Nations and give my very active support to organisations such as Amnesty International, Terre des Hommes, Médecins du Monde, etc. — *L'Actualité en France*.



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U.S. Senate weighs amendments to defence bill before vote

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Senate has weighed amendments that would impose a ceiling on U.S. troops stationed in Europe and require President George Bush to negotiate with Japan on shouldering a larger share of the defence burden.

"There can be no free lunches and no free rides," said Sen. Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in introducing the measures as the chamber resumed consideration of the fiscal 1990 defence budget.

Under the First Amendment, prompted by reports that U.S. allies plan significant cuts in their forces, a ceiling would be placed on the ratio of U.S. active duty forces stationed in Europe to non-U.S. NATO active duty forces.

The measure, according to Nunn, would strengthen the NATO position in conventional arms reduction talks with the Warsaw Pact nations and dissuade U.S. allies from unilateral reductions before an agreement is reached.

"This would put an arrow in President Bush's quiver," Nunn told his colleagues. He added that the measure sends a message to U.S. allies:

"If you cut unilaterally, we're not going to be left holding the bag," the Georgia Democrat said.

The amendment dealing with Japan calls on the Asian nation to increase its security and foreign aid programme and requires Bush to negotiate an agreement "providing for complete offset by Japan of the costs of deploying U.S. forces in defence of Japan."

Japan currently spends 1 per cent of its gross national product on defence. The Asian nation contributes about \$2 billion — 40 per cent of the total U.S. cost — for U.S. troops stationed there, Nunn said.

The Senate also considered a non-binding resolution urging the United States and South Korea to discuss the possibility of some reductions of U.S. forces from South Korea and asking the president to prepare a five-year plan on U.S. military presence in the Asian nation.

The Fourth Amendment calls

for a study of options for reducing the costs worldwide for U.S. overseas dependents.

The Senate continued work on its version of the defence bill with Bush indicating he is relying on the senators to keep his strategic programmes intact.

Bush chided the House of Representatives Friday for turning the administration's defence package upside down with a \$1.8 billion cut in "Star Wars," strict limitations on production of the B-2 Stealth bomber and reductions in ICBM's, including all \$100 million earmarked for the Midgeman missile.

"Star Wars" is the U.S. plan for a space-based missile defence system, formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative.

The democratic-controlled House also restored two planes — the F-14D Tomcat jet fighter and V-22 Osprey — that Bush planned to cancel.

President Bush Monday vetoed a bill that would have imposed conditions on a U.S.-Japan deal to build the FSX jet fighter, the White House said.

Responding to congressional complaints about the project, negotiated by the previous Reagan administration, Bush ear-

lier this year won Japanese concessions that helped quell a move to kill the deal.

His veto of a measure that would have imposed conditions on the deal allows the project to go forward on terms agreed to by the U.S. administration and the Japanese government.

"The resolution is neither necessary to protect the interest of the United States, nor consistent with longstanding requirements of the arms export control act," he said in a message to the Senate.

Bush added that the measure contained provisions that "unconstitutionally infringe" on the foreign-policy-making powers of the president.

The FSX, an advanced version of the U.S. F-16, is to be co-developed by General Dynamics, a leading U.S. defence manufacturer, and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

"The FSX programme is the first major military co-development programme between the United States and Japan," Bush said. "The FSX will bolster Japan's self-defence capability, strengthen our overall alliance with Japan and allow Japan to assume a greater share of the common defence burden."

OECD sees strong W. German economy

BONN (R) — The West German economy is set to expand strongly this year but higher wage claims could cloud prospects in 1990, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has said.

IN its semi-annual report on West Germany, the 24-nation think tank said Europe's largest economy had performed better than expected since mid-1987 with booming exports, lively demand and strong corporate investment.

But higher inflation this year coupled with bigger company profits could prompt unions to demand high wage rises in major negotiations with employers next

year. "The growth of the West German economy since mid-1987 has surprised many people," OECD official Dieter Menke told a recent news conference.

"A warning sign is inflation which is set to double this year to three per cent."

The report by the Paris-based OECD forecast gross national product (GNP) would rise by about 3.25 per cent in real terms this year after 3.4 per cent in 1988. Growth in 1990 would slow to 2.75 per cent.

The 1989 estimate was higher than a 3.0 per cent projection made by the OECD in June but lower than a forecast of at least 3.5 per cent made by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right government earlier this month.

Higher inflation this year prompted by dearer oil, higher import prices and a package of consumer tax rises introduced in

January is working West Germans who have been used to stable prices for years.

Inflation was running at an annual rate of 3.1 per cent in June compared with an average rate of 1.2 per cent last year.

"The temporary effects of the indirect tax hikes may raise price expectations, thus complicating wage settlements in 1990," the OECD report said.

"With 1990 being a heavy bargaining year covering about two thirds of wage and salary earners, and with higher imported inflation, the prospects for continued nominal wage moderation become less bright."

The last major wage settlements were negotiated between employers and unions in 1987 and are valid for three years.

The OECD forecast wage rises of about 3.75 per cent next year but warned this could be "on the low side of possible outcomes."

It recommended that tight monetary policies in force since mid-1988 should be maintained to keep inflation under control.

The Bundesbank, West Germany's central bank, has raised its key interest rates three times this year in order to strengthen the mark and restrain price rises.

The OECD report said the strong economy would push the unemployment rate down to about seven per cent by the end of 1990 from 7.4 per cent at present.

The OECD prediction was echoed by Wolfgang Roeller, chief executive of Dresdner Bank, who told a news conference in Stuttgart Monday that strong corporate investment augured well for a cut in the dole queues.

The OECD said West Germany's bulging trade surplus, which has prompted attacks from countries including the United States and France for exacerbating global imbalances, would stay high this year and in 1990.

Bonn's Finance Minister Theo Waigel said earlier this month that the large trade surplus was caused by special factors and that West Germany's trading partners recognised this.

The surplus reached a record 128 billion marks (\$68 billion) last year and economists say it may surge to 140 billion marks (\$75 billion) this year.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Spain's stock markets adopt new system

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spain's stock markets rose Monday, the first day of trading under the most sweeping changes in the country's 158-year-old history. The reform, known as "El Big Bang," is designed to broaden the Spanish markets' trading base, tighten disclosure controls to eliminate insider trading and bring the stock exchanges in line with others in Europe. Provisional figures indicated the Madrid General Index reached 303.93, up 1.70 over Friday. Valencia rose 1.76 points to 245.06 and Barcelona's index registered 106.47, up .73 points. The Bilbao market was closed for a regional holiday. Dealers said trading on the three exchanges remained light, largely due to investors' concern about the changeover and recent government moves to restrict credit and slow the country's overheated economy.

Oil flows again from North Sea fields

LONDON (R) — Occidental Petroleum Corp said Monday it had restarted production from a North Sea oilfield shut down since the world's worst offshore oil rig disaster on the nearby Piper Alpha Platform a year ago. A spokeswoman for Occidental's British unit said the Scaja Field resumed production on July 29 and was building up to its former production levels of around 22,000 barrels of crude per day (BPD). Industry sources said the neighbouring Claymore Field, which pumped an average 70,000 BPD before the Piper explosion in July 1988 which killed 167 men, was expected to come back on stream either late Monday or early on Tuesday. Occidental said they expected to make a statement on Claymore Tuesday. The impending return of the two fields, more than two months later than originally forecast by Occidental, will provide a much-needed boost to British oil production. Output is currently languishing at ten-year lows of around 1.36 million BPD, partly as a result of the capacity lost through the Piper explosion. Five fields, including Claymore and Scaja, depended on the Piper Alpha platform to export their oil.

Pakistan may cut development plan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan is likely to slash its 1988-93 five-year development plan by 15 to 25 per cent through lack of funds, the official AFP news agency reported Monday. At present the seven-year plan is estimated at 642.4 billion rupees (\$32.12 billion), including a fixed investment of 350 billion rupees (\$17.4 billion) in the public sector. A 292.4 billion rupees (\$14.6 billion) investment was planned in the private sector. The Planning and Development Ministry of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's eight-month-old government has begun looking at areas where cuts could be made, AFP said. It gave no details. The plan was prepared by the government of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, killed in a plane crash last August. Bhutto complained after winning elections in November that Zia left an empty cashbox.

Maxwell's media empire unveils profit rise

LONDON (R) — Robert Maxwell said Monday his publishing empire's pre-tax profits rose by 15.7 per cent last year and new acquisitions had made it one of the world's top 10 media companies. Maxwell Communication Corp (MCC) shares rose five pence (8.3 cents) on the news to £2.08 (\$3.4) although the results were a shade below some analysts' expectations. Profits before tax increased to £192 million (\$319 million) in the 15 months until the end of March from 166 million (\$275 million) in calendar 1987. The 15-month accounting period was created to take account of big changes in the structure of the corporation in 1988. "Before the end of this financial year (March 1990), our group will be a purely publishing and communications group," Maxwell said of the restructuring. "With the disposal of our major U.K. printing businesses, the group's assets, revenues and profits have shifted decisively to North America," he said in a statement. A major part of MCC's restructuring was the purchase of U.S. publisher MacMillan in November for \$2.26 billion.

Guinea worm drive raises \$8m

LAGOS (R) — An international campaign has raised pledges of about \$8 million to eradicate guinea worm, but much more is needed, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Monday. He said a total of \$62 million was needed to achieve a 1995 target for wiping out the disease which afflicts about 10 million people, mainly in Africa. "Few other diseases torture their victims as much, physically and psychologically, as this one does," Carter told a conference sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, and other bodies including the humanitarian organisation Global 2000 of which he is chairman. Guinea worm larvae live in stagnant pools and grow inside the bodies of people who drink the water without filtering or boiling it. Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida announced a donation worth about \$1 million to the campaign, saying his country had the largest concentration of victims of the disease.

JPMC exports in July reaches 679,300 tonnes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) last month exported 679,300 tonnes of phosphate, up from 659,000 tonnes in June 1989, according to an official statistical bulletin.

The company director, Wasef Azar, said that 32 cargo vessels were used to export the total amount to 19 nations. He said that in the first seven months of 1989, a total of 4.13 million tonnes of raw phosphate has been ex-

ported to various countries in addition to 314,000 tonnes of phosphoric fertilizers to four countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

Airlines to raise ticket prices in Jordan by 20%

AMMAN (Petra) — Air tickets sold by Royal Jordanian (RJ) and all other airlines operating in Jordan will rise in price by 20 per cent as of Aug. 7, 1989, according to an announcement here Tuesday.

An RJ official said that the increase in prices will affect all tickets sold by any airline in the Kingdom and that the decision was taken upon the recommendation of a committee representing all airlines in the country.

The official said that the decision to raise fares for air travel was in line with regulations set by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and in the light of the low rate prices of tickets issued in Jordan compared with those issued abroad.

He said that the decision will no doubt prevent any illegal speculation in air ticket purchases conducted in Jordan for travellers living abroad.

4 more U.S. banks lower lending rates

NEW YORK (AP) — Four major U.S. commercial banks including the nation's largest have lowered their prime lending rates a half percentage point to 10.5 per cent, signalling lower borrowing costs for consumers and businesses.

First Bank of Chicago was the first to take the step shortly before the opening of the stock market, with Chemical Bank, Continental Bank and No. 1 Citibank quickly joining in.

The reduction, effective immediately, follows similar cuts by San Francisco-based Bank of America Friday and Chase Manhattan Bank more than three weeks ago. A few other smaller banks have reduced their prime rates since Chase's move.

The prime rate reflects a bank's costs of borrowing money, including interest it pays on savings accounts or certificates of de-

posit, and trails more subtle increases in other interest rates. The rate is watched closely because bankers use it as a basis for calculating loans to businesses and for determining many types of fixed and adjustable-rate consumer loans. Mortgage rates are not included in that category.

Monday's decrease was widely expected by most economists due to continuing signs that the Federal Reserve is seeking looser credit policies in response to a slowdown in economic growth.

Economists have speculated that major banks did not immediately follow Chase, which cut its prime rate on July 10.

The Federal Funds Rate, the interest on overnight loans between banks, traded at 8 7/8 per cent by late Monday morning, down from 8 15/16 per cent Friday.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, August 1, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	573.4	579.4	Japanese yen (for 100)	418.9	423.1
Pound Sterling	954.3	963.8	Dutch guilder	272.4	275.1
Deutschmark	307.2	310.3	Swedish crown	82.9	90.8
Swiss franc	356.3	359.9	Italian lire (for 100)	42.9	43.3
French franc	90.8	91.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	147.0	148.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	1.6590/60	U.S. dollars
One Sterling	1.1795/05	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8658/65	Deutsche marks
	2.1042/52	Dutch guilders
	1.6090/100	Swiss francs
	39.06/09	Belgian francs
	6.3150/200	French francs
	1341/1342	Italian lire
	136.54/64	Japanese yen
	6.3750/800	Swedish crowns
	6.8450/500	Norwegian crowns
	7.2525/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	370.30/370.70	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Off-shore interest and gains on Wall Street boosted the All Ordinaries Index 4.4 points to 1,638.7.

TOKYO — Profit-takers put the brakes on the Tokyo Stock Market after Monday's sharp gains. "Prices have been moving too fast," commented Takahide Furushashi of DB Capital Markets. The Nikkei Index lost 55.61 points to 34,898.46.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng Index rose 7.58 points to 2,578.96. Shares were supported by fresh corporate moves.

SINGAPORE — Profit-taking after a post-crash high pushed the Straits Times Industrials 5.21 lower to 1,368.08.

BOMBAY — The market opened shakily but rallied strongly on heavy buying by state-owned investment trusts.

FRANKFURT — The market surged to 1989 highs in hectic start-of-the-month trade, with investors scrambling to stock up positions in blue chips. The Real-Time 30-Share Dax Index gained 24.75 to 1,578.91.

ZURICH — The market was closed for a national holiday.

PARIS — Shares closed higher as the market bounced back after heavy selling Monday. The 50-share Bourse Indicator rose by 0.63 per cent.

LONDON — Prices ended weak but off the day's lows. Lack of corporate news and an absence of fresh British economic data made for quiet trading. At 1600 GMT, the FTSE index was up 4.7 at 2,292.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks rallied as soaring bond prices ignited buying interest. The Dow advanced 13 to 2,673.

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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman Supply Department. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD 150 for each set of tender documents. The closing date for tender submission is 12.00 o'clock local time Saturday 26/8/1989.

Wasef Azar
Managing Director

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ENTRY TICKETS JD 2 for adults, JD 1 for children

Graf shows no mercy to Rene Simpson

SAN DIEGO (R) — West Germany's Steffi Graf, the world's top player, needed 41 minutes Monday night to power past Canadian Rene Simpson 6-0, 6-0 in the opening round of a \$200,000 women's tennis tournament.

Graf, 20, who won her second Wimbledon title last month, used her lethal forehand to beat the 23-year-old left-hander for the second consecutive time without yielding a game.

"It was just perfect tonight. There wasn't very much I could do wrong but there," said the top seed, who yielded just 15 points against Simpson, ranked 80th in the world.

"She overpowered me and abused my second serve," said Simpson.

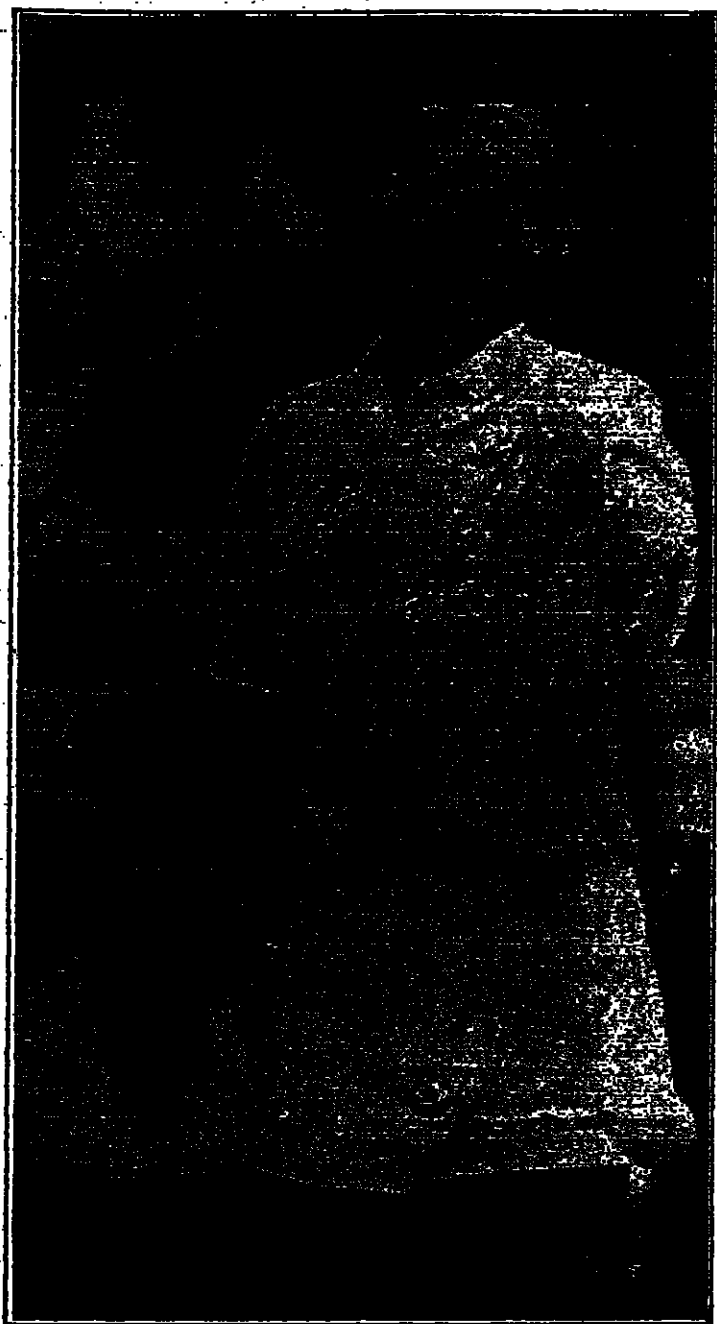
"It's not an embarrassment to lose to her because she's such a great player. I thought I could stay in the points with her and rally two or three times. But she hit outright winners off her forehand," Simpson said.

"I consider myself to be fast on the court, but I didn't even hit half her balls."

"I honestly don't know how people beat her."

Graf now faces unseeded American Betsy Nagelsen who posted a 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Australian Liz Smylie.

In first-round upsets, third-seed Susan Sloane of the United States had trouble serving and fell to fellow American Robin White 7-5, 6-3.



Tyson: they want to see me fail

NEW YORK (R) — Mike Tyson, shrugging off suggestions his personal troubles affect him in the ring, said in a television interview last week that his success apparently bothers some people.

The undisputed world heavyweight champion, in an interview with ABC television eight days after stopping Carl "The Truth" Williams with a shattering left hook in just 93 seconds of the first round, said after watching a rerun of the fight: "I just like it when they're easy like that."

Tyson, asked if the turmoil in his personal life affects him, said, "...I'm comfortable with myself. I'm really comfortable with myself."

He said he was concerned "to a certain extent" about his personal image.

"I always think if I was just some poor, broke slob, very unhappy, nobody would ever bother me, everybody would be satisfied."

"Let me say, I'm happy, I'm rich and I don't let anything bother me and that makes people uncomfortable."

great champion, Tyson, 7-0, said: "I'm not indestructible. But everyone has his day. (Joe) Louis had his time, and in that small increment of time when you're on top you're unbeatable."

"I'm not saying I'm a great champion, or put myself in the category with Louis and Ali and (Rocky) Marciano and all those great fighters."

He said he was concerned "to a certain extent" about his personal image.

Peking may need to divert resources from provinces

China struggles with Asian games

PEKING (R) — Preparations for next year's Asian Games despite shortages of cash and electricity and the presence of tens of thousands of martial law troops in the city.

Asian diplomats said Tuesday the games were on vital national importance and would be held even if they deprived residents of electricity in the power-starved city.

On June 4, tanks and troops crushed student-led protests, killing hundreds, perhaps thousands of people, provoking condemnation and limited sanctions from the West and Japan.

The action also raised fears some countries might boycott the games.

"All the Asian nations will come because the human rights issue is not so important to them. South Korea will come because China went to the Seoul Olympics and it wants to improve its

political relations with Peking," one diplomat said.

"The only question mark is over Japan, where human rights is an issue," he added.

China has gone out of its way to show that the games will go ahead on schedule in September 1990.

Diplomats said the games would be a symbol that all was normal and the country was stable.

Asian diplomats were given a tour of stadiums under construction in mid-July and assured everything would be ready. State television has shown new venues being opened and builders, including soldiers, hard at work.

The city is constructing 16 new

sports venues, sprucing up 11 existing ones and building a games village for the athletes.

"This is very important for China's prestige," said a Southeast Asian diplomat. "It will use the games to show to the world what it can do."

The athletes may find themselves in close contact with thousands of troops enforcing martial law.

Many residents believe the troops will still be in Peking when the athletes arrive and that martial law will be abolished only after the games.

"The leaders are afraid that once the troops leave we will go back to Tiananmen Square and mourn those they killed. They are afraid of more student protests," a taxi driver said.

"They are right. We may well go to the square."

The economic daily Sunday said there was a shortfall of 700 million yuan (\$189 million), one third of the total cost.

A diplomat said Hong Kong and overseas Chinese originally counted on by Peking for contributions would probably donate less because of anger over the killings.

"China may be forced to turn for money to the Asian Games federation or the participating countries," he said.

Providing enough electricity in a city where demand exceeds supply by 10 per cent is another problem.

The Economic Daily said proposals included a cut in supply to other parts of north China or a special allocation of 500,000 tonnes to enable power stations to boost output during the three-week sports festival.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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USE EVERY SPOT

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 8 4

♥ A K 9 7 5

♦ J 9 3

♣ 8 4

EAST

♠ 9 6 3 2

♥ Q 10 8 3

♦ 5 4

♣ 7 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10

♥ Void

♦ A K Q 10 8 6 2

♣ A K

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♥ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass

5 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass

7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

We tend to treat our deuces and treys with disdain, thinking they're unimportant. Just how crucial they can be is highlighted by this hand.

It is usually wrong to use Blackwood when you have a void in your hand. Here, however, it could not hurt, since declarer was sure he could enter partner's hand in trumps to use winners there for discards. Indeed, had North held two kings and no ace, declarer could

have claimed a grand slam. South bid it nevertheless, since it would be a claimer if North's king was in spades, or if North held a queen as well, or if the spade finesse were to succeed.

None of these possibilities existed, yet declarer got home by careful use of the partnership's combined assets. After winning the king of clubs, declarer overtook the ten of diamonds with the jack and ruffed a heart high. The eight of diamonds to the nine provided a second dummy entry and, in the process, drew the last enemy trump. On the ace and king of hearts declarer discarded two spades, then again ruffed a heart high in hand.

When both defenders followed to this trick, the table's last heart was set up. And declarer's farsighted technique reaped a rich dividend.

South was able to overtake the two of diamonds with the board's three and discard his remaining spade loser on the long heart. Had that card not been a winner, declarer would have been able to fall back on the spade finesse in an attempt to land the slam.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

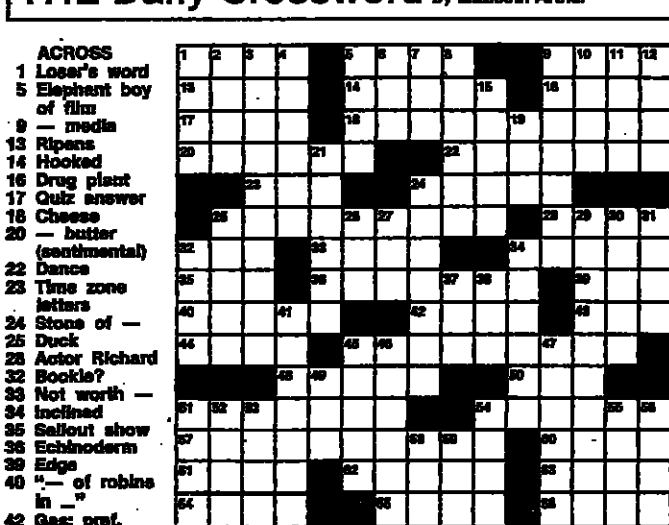
IVANCHUK WIN TAKES HIM TO TOP: Soviet favorite Vasily Ivanchuk defeated American Anthony Miles in Bern Monday to share the lead with Lev Polugaevsky after 11 rounds of the Bienne Grandmasters Chess Tournament. Ivanchuk, ranked third in the world, won after 49 moves. Polugaevsky, his Soviet compatriot, defeated Yugoslavia's Ivan Sokolov after an equal number of moves. Both winners played black. (AP)

CHANG ADVANCES IN VERMONT: French open champion Michael Chang, the youngest male Grand Slam winner in history, easily won his first match at the \$602,500 international '89 tennis tournament Monday, beating fellow-American Pete Sampras 6-4, 6-4. "When you get the first match under your belt you get into the groove of things," said Chang, 17, the tournament's second seed. Chang and Sampras, 18, are frequent practice partners, who worked together for two weeks before the French Open where Chang beat Sampras in the second round. Although Monday's score appeared deceptively close, Chang had the upperhand throughout the match. (R)

IRAQ APPEALS AGAINST FIFA DECISION: Iraq has appealed against a decision by the international football federation, FIFA, to ban its youth teams from participating in international competition as punishment for fielding an over-age player in the last world youth championship. Dhiaa Hassan, chief of the information department of the Iraqi Football Association told the Associated Press in Baghdad Iraq has asked FIFA to reverse the decision made and announced last week by the federation secretary Sepp Blatter. FIFA banned Iraq's teams of under-16, under-20 and under-23 after they discovered that an Iraqi player was older than the limit for a world youth tournament in Saudi Arabia last February. The ban was imposed for two years. It does not apply to senior tournaments. Hassan did not say on what grounds Iraq's appeal to a special FIFA committee will be based. But he said Iraq is hopeful that FIFA will reverse its decision. Hassan said Iraq will continue its preparations for the Palestine Youth Cup tournament due to start in Baghdad later this month with 15 Arab teams taking part. (AP)

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Elizabeth Arthur



ACROSS

1. Loner's word
5. Elephant boy of film
9. — media
13. Ripens
14. Hooked
16. Drug plant
17. Quiz answer
18. Cheese
20. — butter (culinary)
22. Dance
23. Time zone
24. Stone of —
25. Duck
26. Actor Richard
27. Bookish?
28. Not worth —
34. Inclined
35. Ballout show
36. Cold modern
38. Edge
40. — of robins
42. Glee prot.
43. Sticky stuff
44. Soccer great
45. Microwave
46. Harney's town
49. Velvet or sat
50. Follows
51. Travel weary
54. Assembled
57. Swiss cheese
60. Shore bird
61. Fr. friend
62. Toy casting
63. Malicious
64. — Jim
65. Flounder kin
66. "Peter Pan" dog

DOWN

1. Broadway hit
2. Soft prot.
3. Cheese
4. Fly
5. Mine and
6. Magpie
7. Nabokov novel
7. Schindler
8. Diarrhea in a way
9. Ind. sport fish
10. Touched ground
11. Steamers
12. Infirmary
15. Havelock's craft
19. Capitol Hill person: abbr.
21. Finally
24. Cheese
25. Thorn
26. Actress
27. Joanne
28. Black tracks
29. Cheese
30. Charged particle
31. Verne captain
32. Fellow
34. For the time being
37. Perfect number
38. "Where the snow" —
41. Sargasso
45. Trade centers
46. Historical records
47. Reticulate
48. Singer
49. Ridge
52. Bullets
53. Horse giant of creation
54. Commedia dell'
55. — go brough
56. Art movement
58. Doncher
59. Spitchcock

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



